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John Waters gives
good interview.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Al Gore chooses Lieberman

by Bob Roehr

Vice President Al Gore introduced Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Connecticut) as his running mate saying that the selection would "tear down a mighty wall of division." Gore was referring to the fact that Lieberman is the first Jew nominated for national office by a major political party. The pair appeared at a Nashville rally Tuesday, August 8.

"Dear Lord, maker of miracles, I thank you for bringing me to this extraordinary moment in my life," said Lieberman. He quoted scripture and praised Gore for having "never, never wavered in his responsibilities as a father, as a husband, and yes, as a servant of God almighty."



Joseph Lieberman

Lieberman, 58, is intelligent, well respected, and able to work across party lines. He is pro-defense and pro-big business. He is one of the most conservative Democrats in the Senate.

He was the first Democratic elected official of stature to publicly criticize President Clinton on the Monica Lewinsky affair. He said, "Such behavior is not just inappropriate, it is immoral. And it is harmful, for it sends a message of what is acceptable behavior to the larger American family, particularly to our children."

Lieberman's selection, which was leaked to the media Monday, was widely praised. Some saw the move as a way for Gore to distance himself from Clinton, since Lieberman's speech from the Senate floor in 1998 made headlines. Others saw it as a "bold" move because of Lieberman's religion. Headlines in many newspapers Tuesday called Gore's choice "historic."

Lieberman has been a leading page 18 ►

Pride returns over \$70K to local groups

by Cynthia Laird

A well-attended Pride event in June led to windfalls of cash for local organizations, as the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee Inc. announced last week that more than \$70,000 has been distributed to nonprofit groups.

The revenue returned to the community represents gate donation proceeds, as well as money from beverage sales. The warm weather for the June 24-25 festivities resulted in brisk sales of beer, other alcohol, and non-alcoholic beverages at the various booths, Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington said.

Thirty-two community organizations collectively received \$71,351.26 at an event last Monday, July 31. The amount represents an increase of 56 percent from money returned to groups last year, which was \$45,714.40. Like last year, the money comes from the committee's "community partners" program that includes organizations who had volunteers staff admission gates or work at beverage booths.

A total of \$53,262 was collected at the gate, Witherington said. Half of that amount, or about \$26,000, was returned to the local agencies. The remainder of the money returned – approximately \$45,351 – came from the beverage sales. Local groups had the option of participating in one or both of the partner programs – beverage or donation partners.

Checks to the groups ranged from \$675 to \$3,371 for the gate proceeds alone, Witherington explained. Other groups, such as Pets Are Wonderful Support, had volunteers work both the gate and beverage booths, and they took away nearly \$6,000. Money was returned to groups based on the number of hours of volunteer help they provided. Each organization that participated in the beverage partner program was guaranteed a min-



Marc Geller

The crowd at this year's Pride festival was big, and so was the money returned to local groups.

imum of \$1,000, Witherington said.

San Francisco's largest event, the Pride Parade and celebration drew almost 1 million people this year. A sticker system at the gates and a prize draw donated by United Airlines helped boost the donations significantly from last year, Pride organizers said.

"In historical terms, this was a much better year for donations," said board member Joey Cain. "We hope to build upon the success this year and encourage more people to give in the future."

The committee requested a voluntary \$3 per person donation at the gate. That's less than Pride events in other Bay Area cities, including San Jose and Oakland, both of which charge \$7.

Witherington pointed out that the amount that Pride gives back to the community has been increasing since 1997, hand in hand with higher standards of fiscal responsibility and financial solvency. While Pride's books won't close until September 30,

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Hank Wilson wants 'a better world'

by Terry Beswick

H e's not the kind of politician to toot his own horn.

Indeed, he's not a politician at all. He's never run for office.

Hank Wilson is a longtime activist. He talks about issues, not himself.

Yet with the return to district elections – San Francisco's system of electing supervisors, dispensed with in the aftermath of the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk – activist Wilson saw an opening and decided that the best way to achieve his goals was to get on a soapbox and talk about why he should be the San Francisco supervisor from District 6.

"It's just that I have to do that," he said in an August 7 interview. "Otherwise, it seems like not everyone will know what I've done."

Wilson joins some 30 others vying for the job of representing the sprawling district that stretches from South of Market to the Tenderloin, Hayes Valley to the Inner Mission, South Beach to Mission Bay, with Treasure Island

thrown in for good measure. Supervisor Leslie Katz's decision last month that she couldn't afford to move into the district so that she could run for re-election left the field wide open.

"Believe me," Wilson noted, "a supervisor's salary will be quite sufficient to support my lifestyle."

He's not in this for money or glory, Wilson said. It's just a natural evolution of his work.

"The problems that I've seen, they're worse than they've ever been," he said. "The reason I'm running is that I think I can make a contribution most as a member of the board."

A former schoolteacher, comedy cabaret co-owner, substance abuse counselor, and manager of a Tenderloin single room occupancy hotel, the candidate's popularity is uncontested in the polling booth. He's raised less than \$3,000 so far.

But when the dust settles and campaigning begins in earnest, the seemingly ubiqui-

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District 6 candidate Hank Wilson

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

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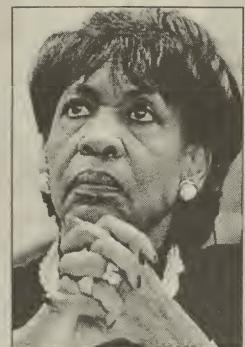
Blacks to challenge Davis at convention

by Katie Szymanski

With the Democrats leaning so far to the right it hurts, protests at their upcoming convention are already planned by those that the party claims to represent but continuously votes against. But the discontent will also exist at the civilized "place at the table," as announced by two black congressmembers this week who vowed to publicly challenge Governor Gray Davis's stance on racial profiling legislation.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-California) and Congressman John Conyers (D-Michigan), both members of the Congressional Black Caucus, announced from Washington, D.C. on August 7 that they and others would make Davis's refusal to sign a racial profiling data collection bill a key issue at the Democratic National Convention that begins this Monday in Los Angeles.

Racial profiling – otherwise known as "driving while black or brown," or DWB – is a nationwide phenomenon whereby people of color are up to 10 times more likely to be stopped and searched by police. While the California Legislature passed a bill that called for the collection of data on the race



Duane Cramer

Congresswoman Maxine Waters

and ethnicity of those stopped by law enforcement officials, Davis vetoed the measure, instead promising to sign a watered-down version that would call for officers to give out their business cards to people stopped and not cited. Seven states in the country have already enacted racial profiling laws that call for data collection. California is the only state where a governor has vetoed the legislation.

Waters, a representative from Los Angeles, expressed outrage at Davis's refusal to include "any form of police accountability."

"Los Angeles, especially, is a city that has been plagued by the problems of racial profiling and police abuse. We have to address racial profiling on the battleground where it is a particular problem," said Waters.

Conyers, an outspoken leader on the issue, provided the dig to Davis's character that only a Democrat could appreciate when he said, "Even Republicans in Congress now argue that profiling is intolerable."

"Nothing is more important to developing a solution to this problem than the gathering of meaningful data," said Conyers.

Davis's refusal to authorize data collection has been explained by two somewhat empty reasons: that profiling is not a problem in California (home of the Rodney King incident), and that the state budget does not have the money to implement such a program (the state had a monumental \$12.3 billion surplus this year).

A spokesman for the governor said that Davis was pleased with legislative support for state Senator Kevin Murray's (D-Los Angeles) compromise bill, calling it "important progress." He objected to the term "watered-down," despite the fact that the proactive provisions of the bill were removed upon his request. ▼

Carole Migden secures \$250K for GLBT Historical Society of California

by Katie Szymanski

They needed the money, and she knows how to bring it home. Assemblywoman Carole Migden, San Francisco's powerful lesbian in residence at the state level, was able to secure an unprecedented \$250,000 of California's budget for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Historical Society of Northern California last month before a legislative recess. The funds constitute the single largest grant that the society has ever received since its founding in 1985, and the money will primarily be used to fund two projects: an audio/visual preservation project that involves transferring films and tapes to a more stable medium, and a digitizing project that allows the society to make its massive library available on the Internet.

GLHS, located at 973 Market Street in San Francisco, is a virtual attic of memorabilia, news, and other mediums that have documented the history of the LGBT movement over the decades. Its archives include the works of writers, artists, photographers, and performers; the papers and essays of community leaders; the public and private records of



Jane Phinney Cilbard

Assemblywoman Carole Migden

importance, it has remained relatively under-funded and even under-appreciated. This year's grant will relieve some of the financial stress that goes along with the job, according to GLHS Executive Director Susan Stryker.

"We've always had a hand-to-mouth existence here," she said.

The funding was made possible by an enormous state budget surplus of \$12.3 billion, some of which was allocated to smaller projects that have been largely neglected in the past.

In addition to securing GLHS funding, Migden, working in conjunction with state Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco), obtained \$500,000 for the city's National AIDS Memorial Grove from the state Park and Recreation program. The funding does not take away any state funds designated for HIV/AIDS prevention or treatment programs.

Thom Weyand, executive director of the AIDS grove, said that the half-million dollars will be used to finish the grove with what he called a "Crossroads Circle," which he described as "another circular feature" and to meet federal disability access requirements as well as pay for some accessibility work that has already been done at the site. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mission march tackles gentrification this Sat.

by Katie Szymanski

Coming soon to the Mission District: a gang of mediocre, apolitical, newly wealthy transplants who will evict longtime Latino, lesbian, and artist residents and effectively paint the neighborhood a pasty shade of white.

Many San Francisco supervisors are quick to cite "neighborhood concerns" when it comes to vetoing items like proposed queer youth shelters, but where Mission development and displacement are concerned, most are all too happy to approve big money projects. That leaves the fight to live in this city up to the people, and the Mission Anti-displacement Coalition is ready for that challenge.

MAC is sponsoring a walking tour and march through the Mission this Saturday, August 12, at 11

a.m. Intended to "defend the right to live in the Mission," the march invites neighborhood residents in all their diversity for a tour and celebration of the beloved barrio. Community organizers, small business owners, low-income workers, youth, elders, people of color, and queers are all expected to attend. The walking tour will stop at points of displaced and threatened sites and will educate the community on how to challenge gentrification.

"Saturday's event is another way of mobilizing folks about these issues, and by pointing out along the route different examples of the kind of development that has threatened us, we hope to educate them as well," Antonio Diaz, spokesman for MAC, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Of course, the Mission is still a very vibrant and diverse community so we're also going to be celebrating that as we fight to defend that diversity."

It was MAC that recently confronted the city's Planning Department with a list of demands that included implementing a moratorium on all development projects. The Planning Department refused, but does plan on looking into illegal conversions responsible for the displacement of countless Mission residents. Public outcry about the need for moratoriums may result in a hearing in the near future, according to Diaz.

Saturday's walk begins at 24th and Bryant streets, site of the brilliant "Resist the dot-com" mural by artist Al Lujan. The tour will follow a route that takes the streets of the district and winds up at Cesar Chavez Elementary School at about 2:30 p.m. ▶

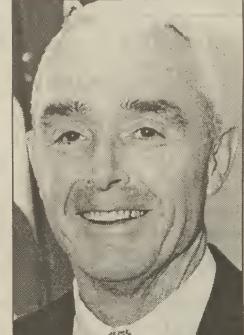
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Smoky battleground renewed in federal court

by Katie Szymanski

Nobody disputes the facts of what is a landmark legal case taking place in San Francisco: some California doctors recommend medical marijuana to patients. At issue, however, is whether what those doctors do is punishable by federal law. The federal government says yes, while the doctors and patients in the suit—operating under California's medical marijuana initiative Proposition 215—say no. U.S. District Judge William Alsup will decide.

It was exactly the scenario feared when voters first passed Proposition 215 in 1996. Not exempt from federal laws regarding illicit substances, the state may look the other way when in the company of grass, but Uncle Sam will not, or so said the threats from the Clinton administration four years ago. It was drug czar Barry McCaffrey who declared after the passage of Proposition 215 that any doctors who prescribed or recommended marijuana would lose their federal licenses to prescribe drugs, would not be eligible for Medicare and MediCal payments, and could face criminal prosecution.



Drug czar Barry McCaffrey

That led to *Conant v. McCaffrey*, a class action suit filed by Dr. Marcus Conant and others, seeking a permanent injunction that would protect doctors from such threats and their consequences. The plaintiffs won a preliminary injunction in 1997 that prohibited federal officials from threatening or punishing physicians for recommending medical marijuana to patients, because such threats squelch speech and therefore violate the First Amendment. Last Thursday, August 3, the parties returned to federal court in

San Francisco to duke it out for the final ruling. The original preliminary injunction ruling against the government will either be extended or withdrawn.

The class action suit, as stated by the plaintiffs' attorneys, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, "seeks a declaration that physicians and patients have the right, protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, to communicate in the context of a bona fide physician-patient relationship, without government interference or threats of punishment, about the potential benefits and risks of the medical use of marijuana."

For the federal government, that very same free speech means that a doctor is aiding and abetting a person in obtaining an illegal drug that has been proven "harmful." Interestingly, the government cited the Food and Drug Administration as a source that has documented the evils of marijuana, but plaintiff Conant worked on the FDA's report on Marinol—the marijuana-based medicine to treat weight loss and medical pain—and that report was favorable. Nevertheless, whether the United States can instill fear into doctor-patient

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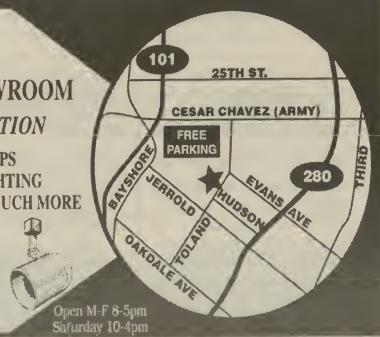
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Supe Leno puts up hurdles against chain stores in the Castro

by Terry Beswick

Castro area shopaholics may be dismayed to learn that they're not likely to have a Macy's or a Nordstrom in the neighborhood any time soon.

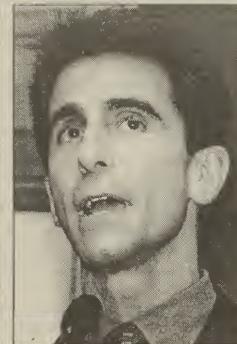
But they'll just have to get their fix elsewhere, thanks to San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, who is running for re-election as a supervisor from the District 8, which includes the Castro-Dolores Heights, as well as the Twin Peaks-Corona Heights, Duboce-Revere Triangle, Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, and Glen Park neighborhoods.

By a unanimous vote and with no opposition, the Board of Supervisors passed legislation Monday, August 7 that will make it a lot more difficult for big chain stores to set up shop in the Castro.

"This is very important legislation," said Leno, who sponsored a similar bill pertaining to the North Beach area that was passed by the board last year.

"It allows our local small businesses to be able to compete with particular large concerns," Leno said, himself a small business owner in the South of Market area. The legislation aims to "end the erosion of the area around Castro and 18th Street as a unique commercial district and the international center of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community," according to a statement issued by the supervisor's office.

The amendments to the city planning code won approval from the Planning Commission in May, and were supported by the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, an advocacy group of neighborhood business owners, as well



Marcia Seltzer

as Castro Area Planning and Action, the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, and the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association.

"It goes a long way toward maintaining the unique small

"I want to help keep this neighborhood a unique, one-of-a-kind destination..." — Patrick Batt

businesses in this neighborhood by limiting the amount of square feet and by discouraging large companies from moving in here," said Patrick Batt, president of MUMC, who testified in favor of the bill at a hearing of the board's Transportation and Land Use Committee on July 25.

"I want to help keep this neighborhood a unique, one-of-a-kind destination without equal around the world," Batt said.

cated by a neighborhood businesses to re-apply for a conditional use permit. The permit application process gives neighboring businesses and residents a chance to put in their two cents at a public hearing of the Planning Commission before permits are approved and the deal goes through.

"It goes a long way toward showing [Leno's] interest in the well-being of District 8," commented Batt. ▼

ALRP critical of HIV testing provision in proposed CARE Act

by Cynthia Laird

The AIDS Legal Referral Panel on Tuesday denounced a provision requiring HIV testing of pregnant women and newborns contained within the Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization that was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 26.

The language included in the House version of the CARE Act (HR 4807) adds an additional \$20 million to the \$10 million currently contained in the CARE Act for states to establish programs to reduce perinatal transmission of HIV.

While the current CARE Act allows money to be spent for such programs as voluntary testing, counseling, and treatment, along with the implementation of mandatory testing programs, the new funding would be utilized to support mandatory HIV testing of newborns through financial incentives. Money would be set aside in gradually increasing proportions for states that have policies mandating HIV testing of newborns.

"While the AIDS Legal Referral Panel strongly supports the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, which is absolutely



Jane Philomen Cleary

vital to the continuation of critically needed HIV/AIDS services throughout the country, we cannot support this provision," said Eileen Hansen, ALRP's public policy director. "Mandatory testing of any individual or population is unnecessary, inappropriate, and not in the best interest of serving the public's health."

Hansen, an AIDS policy expert, is running for supervisor in District 8, which includes the Castro. Hansen pointed out that the

Senate version of the CARE Act reauthorization — which has also been approved — does not contain such language.

"We are hopeful that the Senate and House versions can be reconciled such that this language is struck from the final bill agreed on in conference committee," Hansen added.

She added that while the proposed CARE Act legislation "stops just short of mandating HIV testing of newborns and pregnant women, there is strong financial incentive for states to do so."

"This is unacceptable," she added.

Perinatal HIV transmission has been dramatically reduced in recent years, Hansen said, due in large part to the success of voluntary testing and counseling efforts, along with the availability of treatment to reduce perinatal transmission.

The House version of the CARE Act reauthorization legislation was negotiated between Representative Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma), a longtime mandatory testing advocate; Representatives Henry Waxman (D-California) and Jim Greenwood (R-Pennsylvania), and some Washington, D.C.-based HIV advocates. ▼

Condoms for pos tops with neg bottoms

by Terry Beswick

After nearly 20 years of making "condoms every time" the centerpiece of HIV prevention planning in San Francisco, and in light of controversial new estimates that HIV infections among gay men have increased at least 50 percent in the last three years, local health officials appear poised to finally embrace the realities of sex in the gay community, abandoning the time-worn message that gay men should use condoms 100 percent of the time.

Wednesday morning, the city released an "11 Point Action Plan" calling it an "opening salvo" of a still-undefined campaign to help curb the escalating rise in HIV infections, and refocus the city's cur-

rent \$16 million annual expenditure on HIV prevention programs.

"Our conclusion is that these programs work, but they're not working right now," stated Health Director Mitch Katz.

The centerpiece of the new plan embraces an idea long understood by gay men in San Francisco: that most HIV infections in the city occur when HIV-positive tops have unprotected anal sex with HIV-negative bottoms, referred to as "barebacking."

"The model that was established in the early 1980s," said Mayor Willie Brown, at the City Hall news conference, "needs to be renewed, reinvigorated, and redefined."

"In fact, if we could prevent unprotected anal intercourse between HIV-positive tops and HIV-negative bottoms, 95 percent of the epidemic would go away," said Katz, adding that he was now adopting the "top" and "bottom" vernacular when discussing HIV prevention.

The event was scheduled immediately before a hearing on the

same subject called by Board of Supervisors president Tom Ammiano in the aftermath of leaks in late June around the new HIV infection estimates. At the hearing, Ammiano repeatedly asked Katz for an explanation for the higher incidence estimates, with Katz responding that "the experts sit around in a room and talk and decide" what is most likely the case.

In the face of two major factors – an increase in the estimated number of gay and bisexual men living in San Francisco and a slew of studies indicating an increase in unprotected anal intercourse – city health officials and colleagues at the University of California at San Francisco are now estimating that between 750 and 900 new HIV infections are likely occurring in the city this year, compared to 500 in 1997.

The higher number, 900, had been leaked to the media in June, leading to headlines around the world about the spike in unsafe sex among gay and bisexual men in San Francisco. On Wednesday, Katz repeated his perception that

the subsequent criticism of the new estimate was directed at the unnamed leak, rather than at the lack of explanation of how DPH and UCSF had arrived at the number.

Key among the figures released Wednesday was an estimate that since 1997, the size of the gay and bisexual male population in San Francisco has increased from 43,100 to 52,000 today. These figures were juxtaposed with an estimate that the rate of new HIV infections in San Francisco among men who have sex with men – the vast majority of cases here – has increased from 1.1 percent in 1997 to a projected 1.7 percent in 2000. The latter estimate was derived from numerous "indicator" studies and epidemiological data.

The "11 Point Action Plan" appears to take a step toward a model of prevention called "harm reduction," and includes recommendations that could be directed at DPH itself and at community organizations. A few of the points are more philosophical rather than action items, such as

"Reality Check: it remains a fundamental truth that it is better to remain HIV uninfected. If you are HIV-negative, stay that way!" The plan was reportedly presented on Tuesday to various community prevention organizations, and will be presented to the city HIV Prevention Planning Council today (Thursday, August 10). ▼

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Marin Pride next week

by Katie Szymanski

It may be the middle of August, but don't hang up your gay hats just yet. There is still more homo-sexism in our future: Marin County's Pride celebration, beginning Thursday, August 17.

Organizers of "Ten Days of Marin Pride" encourage all city dwellers to cross the gate that is golden and join in the diverse events scheduled through August 26.

"This is the biggest Pride we've ever had in Marin," said an excited Joelle Yuna, volunteer coordinator for Spectrum, Marin County's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community center.

The 10 days of revelry and group activities kick off next Thursday night with a movie at Spectrum, located at 1000 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in San Anselmo. The Canadian *Salut Victor* – otherwise known as "a gay My Dinner with Andre" – will show at 6:30 p.m. A \$5 donation gets you into the film; all proceeds benefit the gay and lesbian senior program at Spectrum.

Next Friday, August 18, interested people are invited to meet the new volunteer staff for Marin Hike 'n Bike, an adult organization that schedules outdoor activities once a month. The meet and greet will take place at the Seafood Peddler on 100 Yacht Club Drive, off of East Francisco Boulevard, in San Rafael. After socializing, make your way to "A Midsummer Night of Women's Music," held at Fellowship Hall in the Unitarian Church at 240 Channing Way. The concert features singer/songwriter Margie Adam, who will be joined by guitarists Melanie DeMore, harpist Michelle Sell, and the a cappella group Making Waves. Admission is a \$10-\$20 donation, which benefits the continuing production of *Radical Harmonies*, a film about the history of women's music. Doors open at 7:30 and the show starts at 8 p.m.

Then it's the weekend, and what better time to confront your inner anxieties? Next Saturday, August 19, the Marin AIDS Project will sponsor "Challenges and Opportunities in Gay Male Midlife," a seminar from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (415) 457-2487 for directions and information.

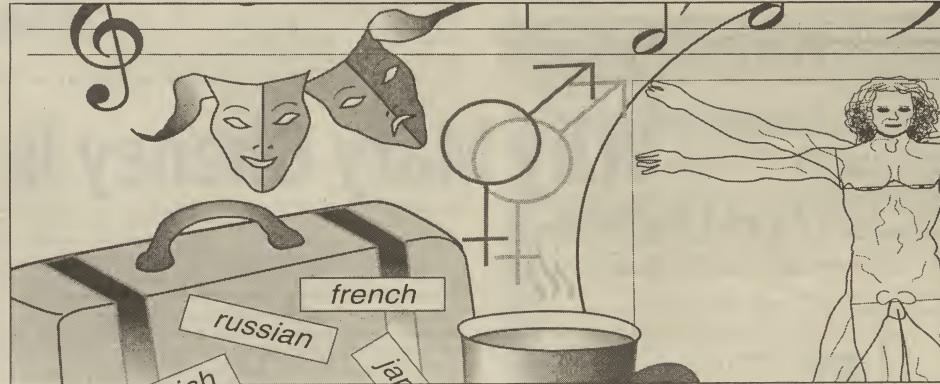
Also on Saturday, the party that those under 23 have been waiting for all week: the Pride Groove

page 10 ▶

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OPEN FORUM

Speak to us, Mary Cheney

Mary Cheney, the 31-year-old lesbian daughter of GOP vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney, has not spoken with reporters since the spotlight was shown on her after her father was selected by Republican nominee George W. Bush.

During the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, Mary Cheney sat with her family. Every night, she was in the VIP box; last Monday she sat next to her father, the former defense secretary during the Persian Gulf War and the former Wyoming congressman who accumulated one of the most conservative voting records during his many years in the House of Representatives. Last Wednesday, when her dad made his acceptance speech, Mary Cheney sat between her sister, Elizabeth, and her husband, almost as if that would downplay her sexual orientation. The Republicans, you see, aren't talking about Mary Cheney's gayness, just like they stigmatized Representative Jim Kolbe's sexual orientation when he addressed the convention on international trade.

Last Thursday, after Bush gave his acceptance speech and the candidates were on stage with their families, Mary Cheney was there, again near her sister, and without her longtime partner.

Last Monday, the *New York Times* published a picture of Dick Cheney aboard a campaign train in the Midwest ... and there, across the aisle, was his daughter, Mary. On Tuesday, the Associated Press reported that Mary Cheney had become an unpaid special assistant to her father. It has been reported that father and daughter are extremely close; she's now in his sphere of advisers and strategists.

Why is this important and why do we want to hear from Mary Cheney?

First, the Republican Party platform that was approved at the convention remains resolutely anti-gay. The Republicans are still against equal rights for gays, still against gays serving in the military, and still against gay marriage. We want to know how Mary Cheney feels about these important disconnects between the GOP platform and the Republican ticket. How, for example, does

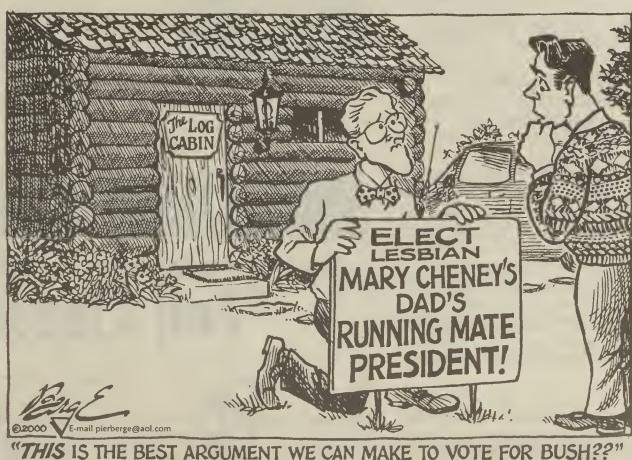
her father really feel about gays? He's worked with them, and has one as a daughter. How has this changed his opinion, or has it changed his opinion? Presumably, before he was named Bush's running mate, Dick Cheney told the governor that he had a lesbian daughter. How does Bush feel about this? Will that fact cause him to be more forthcoming in his views on gays?

Second, Mary Cheney is no stranger to controversy or being in the media. For many years, she worked for Coors Brewing Company, a business with which gays have had a rocky relationship. It was her job to spread corporate goodwill, often in the form of financial donations, to various gay organizations across the country. Sometimes she succeeded, other times, like when the Human Rights Campaign forced the Colorado chapter to return a \$5,000 Coors do-

nation, she did not. We have heard that Mary Cheney wasn't happy with HRC after that incident, yet now we have HRC calling on the Reverend Jerry Falwell to apologize for calling Mary "errant" in his newsletter. We want to know what Mary Cheney thinks of that — being called "errant" and being publicly defended by an organization that once shunned her efforts.

Finally, we want to hear from Mary Cheney about what she believes, and whether she has any influence on her father's thinking regarding gay rights, and by extension, the thinking of those in the Republican Party. The fact that she is now officially an adviser means that Mary Cheney has moved beyond merely being a vice presidential candidate's family member. It has thrust her into a more active role in the campaign, and the gay community deserves to hear from her. Talk to us, Mary Cheney. ▼

Editorial



Why Mary Cheney is news

by Marc Paige

If Mary Cheney were Al Gore's daughter rather than Dick Cheney's, her sexual orientation would not be news. If she were planning on campaigning for her father Al, rather than her father Dick, she would be working for a Democrat, and a political party offering solid support for the dignity of gay Americans. There would be some mild interest in the first openly gay child of a candidate for president, but basically the story would be a nonstarter.

Mary Cheney is news, not because she's gay, but because she is gay and the daughter of the Republican candidate for vice president. This is newsworthy because the Republican Party's platform and the candidates for the two top offices have a history of hostility towards gay Americans. During the fight for equality for gay men and women in the military, Dick Cheney, both as defense secretary and later during congressional hearings, went on record as favoring an open ban on gays. It must be very difficult for a daughter to acknowledge that her father favored discrimination towards her if she desired a career in the military. Family values, indeed.

While George W. Bush has a far more extensive record on gay rights than Dick Cheney, it's doubtful his positions will make Mary any more comfortable. Bush is on record opposing workplace anti-discrimination laws, supporting a ban on gay adoptions, and saying he wouldn't allow gays to serve openly in the military. In May, he killed the Texas hate crime law because it included sexual orientation. Late last year, he told a *Washington Post* reporter he would abolish the White House liaison post to the gay and lesbian community established by President Clinton.

The current Republican platform declares "homosexuality is incompatible with

military service," and says "we do not believe sexual preference" (sexual preference is used instead of sexual orientation to diminish the intrinsic nature of sexuality) "should be given special legal protection or standing in law." There is also repeated inclusion of language reflecting Republican opposition to "the gay lifestyle," another expression the right wing uses as a tool to belittle a movement for equality. Mary Cheney would no doubt be far more comfortable with the language of the Democratic Party platform. In addition to rejecting all discrimination in the military, the Democrats call for the "full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of the nation" with an equitable alignment of benefits."

David Smith, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay advocacy group, has said the election of George W. Bush "would be devastating to our issues and set us back for a long time." Given the record of both her father and Bush, Mary Cheney will have a difficult time on the campaign trail resolving in her mind the issues of family loyalty and self-respect. Unless her presence in the campaign becomes a catalyst for tremendous reversals in the Bush-Cheney attitude toward gay people and gay issues, she runs the risk of being labeled a collaborator with the enemy.

A couple of ominous signs have already appeared as to how the Bush-Cheney campaign will treat Mary. *Time* magazine wrote that while the campaign was happy to inform reporters that Cheney daughter Elizabeth was married with two children, inquiries about Mary did not include mention of Mary's partner, Heather, and their home outside of Denver. Rather, they were told the campaign wouldn't discuss it. And on a re-

cent Sunday ABC news program, when Cokie Roberts clumsily asked Lynne Cheney to talk about her gay daughter, saying, "you have a daughter who has now 'declared' that she is openly gay," Ms. Cheney responded that "Mary has never declared such a thing." She went on to say how appalled she was at the media interest in one of her daughters, and berated Roberts for bringing this up on the program.

The embarrassment and shame projected during the Bush-Cheney campaign interview with *Time* and Lynne Cheney's interview with Cokie Roberts do not bode well for those who are watching to see if the Bush-Cheney ticket moves beyond the anti-gay positions and rhetoric both men have espoused in the past. For the Cheneys to send a message that they are ashamed of Mary, or that they regard their gay daughter as a second-class citizen, could spell disaster for the Bush-Cheney ticket.

Mary Cheney is in an unenviable position. Her father is running for vice president. Her father's record, as well as the record of his running mate, George W. Bush, shows a history of disinterest or outright hostility toward issues concerning gay families, adoption, employment protection, and military service. Open disdain for gay Americans is still acceptable behavior in most parts of the country, with Trent Lott leading the way in the halls of Congress. Too many gay and lesbian teenagers are terrorized at school daily. Mary Cheney is put upon not only to consider family loyalty, but also what a Bush-Cheney victory would mean to her personally and to millions of other gay Americans. In the end, Mary will have to listen to the most contentious voice of all, her own conscience. ▼

Guest Opinion

Marc Paige is a Rhode Island resident.

LETTERS

Out of PlanetOut

We write in reference to your article concerning the relationship between PlanetOut Corporation and XY Media Ltd. ("PlanetOut censors XY Web site," July 27).

PlanetOut and XY have amicably ended their business relationship as a result of differing business practices and objectives. PlanetOut and XY each respect the other's journalistic integrity despite whatever misunderstandings and disagreements PlanetOut and XY may have had in the past.

Peter Ian Cummings, Publisher
XY Media Ltd.

Susan Schuman, COO and Executive Vice President
PlanetOut Corporation

What madness!

I am troubled and angry over the current, unsafe phenomenon known as "barebacking" ["Bareback 'outings' spark debate over well-known secret," July 27]. In the past, this practice was looked upon with alarm by health experts and the gay community alike. Now, it appears that some gay men have become apologists, attempting to justify the practice. Anal sex without a condom is "hot," they argue. If you criticize it, you are "judgmental." Have I missed something, or have we all gone crazy?

Gay men who became infected with HIV in the late 1970s and early 1980s, as I was, did not know the risk of unprotected anal sex. We did not invite the hideous disease which has taken so many of us. Doesn't the memory of all those guys who died too young mean anything to us? Does "body fluid" mean more to us than they did? In the article, Niq Shelbi comments defensively, "...we're actually conceiving sperm as a bad and evil thing." The fact is, sperm carrying HIV is a bad and evil thing. It is ludicrous and irresponsible to assert, as Vince Gaither does, that "there isn't a gay man in the world who doesn't have unprotected anal sex." What madness!

Gay men, especially positive ones, who advocate and practice barebacking, or unsafe sex, need to get out of never-never land, start acting like grown men, and stop thinking with their dicks. If this continues, there will be no need for our enemies to destroy us; we will have done it to ourselves.

Christopher Thomas Koppel
Washington, D.C.

Prevention is not so simple

I applaud your July 27 lead article on the "well-known secret" of barebacking within our community. The article addressed many of the complexities involved in the decision by men to have unprotected anal sex. While having anal sex without a condom (barebacking) does not in itself always imply unsafe sex, the article helped illustrate what is well-known within the AIDS prevention community: that simply providing information about condom use, by itself, is not always sufficient to modify or maintain safe sexual behavior; and, that the commitment to safety is not always as simple as just "use a condom every time."

I would like to clarify one aspect of the story, namely the apparent lack of "harm reduction" models offered in any publicly-funded program in San Francisco. When I was asked by Terry Beswick if I knew of such a program that was specifically designed as a harm reduction program of barebacking, I replied that I did not know of such a program.

However, I should have made clear that the UCSF AIDS Health Project has, for the last several years, provided one on one supportive, non-judgmental counseling for those concerned with their own or their partners' HIV risk behavior. While not specifically created as a "barebacking harm reduction program," our REACH program, staffed by professional mental health providers, works to address the needs of our clients based upon their chosen level of risk. Sometimes this involves discussions about barebacking, sometimes it does not. In either case, we offer the same level of informed and supportive service to men who are trying their best to protect themselves and others while enjoying the most satisfying sex life possible.

AHP's REACH program is located at 1930 Market Street and provides free 12-week individual counseling and peer support group. Anyone interested in our services can call (415) 476-3902 to set up a daytime or evening appointment.

Dr. James W. Dilley, Executive Director
UCSF AIDS Health Project

Condoms are not the issue

The passionate plea for tolerance and compassion in the barebacking debate, while well-intentioned, misses the larger point in the same way the safe sex educators do. Condoms are not the issue. The role of sex in the gay community is. When sex is used as a barometer for all interactions, when it is degraded to the point of leaving people more isolated and unfulfilled than before, when all manner of sexual pathol-

ogy is applauded in the name of political correctness, when porn stars become community spokespeople, the entire community suffers from an inability to bring its sexual expression into alignment with its higher goals, namely authentic love and respect for one another. People are not craving more sexual freedom or heightened sensation denied them because of condoms; they are craving intimacy. Until the sex educators address the epidemic of disconnection in our community, and the meat market mentality that contributes to people treating each other like objects, they are merely masturbating in this futile debate over barebacking.

It's high time the community begins to take responsibility for using our sexuality in a conscious way – which implies that what we do with another means something, that it touches us even if we don't realize it, that it has repercussions that ripple out and affect our ability to identify and feel connected to the community at large. We need to elevate our sexuality as something precious and vulnerable, instead of constantly numbing it with pornography and casual sex.

And we need community leaders who are not afraid to model sexual responsibility in action.

Before you immediately dismiss what I say by branding me as some sort of neo-conservative sex nazi, let me say that I am no innocent to the sex circus, both here and in Manhattan. I've been there and done it all, including being a former sex worker – they were called hustlers back then. I am now a man living with AIDS here in San Francisco. I facilitate workshops on sexuality and spirituality and intimacy at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Robert Samson
San Francisco

Distressed at Drummer contest

I attended the recent Mr. Northern California Drummer contest on the evening of July 29. As a result of its outcome, I feel compelled to express my distress at the apparent hypocrisy exhibited by the judges at that event.

For those of you who didn't follow this particular contest (or read Mr. Marcus's column in this same publication), there were only two contestants for Mr. NoCal Drummer. One, Niq Shelbi, espoused freedom of choice in sexual behavior and had recently admitted in print that he participated in bareback sex. The other, Rod Wood, listed among his sexual interests – "breath control." The latter entrant also performed for the fantasy portion of the event a scene in a church-like setting with chant-like music playing while a supplicant performed sex on a dominant (presumably priestly) character.

It has been widely rumored that Mr. Shelbi was not selected primarily for his stated views concerning the politically incorrect position about condomless sex. If true, I find this result to be reprehensible for several reasons. First, the Drummer contest and title stands for, if anything at all, allowing the widest freedom of sexual choice and expression. Mr. Shelbi's recently publicized position on bareback sex may be unsafe and unpopular but it should nevertheless be permitted as "marching to the beat of a different drummer."

Moreover, the eventual selection of Mr. Wood as the NoCal Mr. Drummer is problematic (and hypocritical) for several reasons. First, Rod Wood spoke during the contest of the need for practicing "safe, same, and consensual" sex and yet admittedly practices breath control, otherwise known as erotic asphyxiation. I have personally performed this type of sex act and found it to be highly dangerous, regardless of the precautions taken. Because of the risk, I no longer conduct breath control for orgasmic purposes even on a willing and sober participant. However, the judges did not seem to have a problem with differentiating between these "unsafe" sexual practices, both of which can lead to a person's death, in making their selection.

Secondly, I am of the opinion that Mr. Wood's fantasy – the enactment of which is a requirement of the contest – was in very poor taste, if not reprehensible, and I am surprised and dismayed that it was allowed to be performed. (It is my understanding that the fantasies are screened and approved prior to the contest.) In its most basic form, such a fantasy does not represent "consensual" sex between two willing participants. And yet the judges of this event again apparently found that the expression of a sexual "fantasy" involving sex between a priest and a supplicant fit within their penumbra of acceptable sexual practices.

All of us have a personal idea of what is acceptable behavior, sexual or otherwise. I don't believe that I have the right to limit other consenting adults' sexual interests and behavior in the name of political correctness. I was apparently under the mistaken belief that the promoters and judges of the Mr. Drummer contest held to this same basic tenet. However, the PC monster once again reared its ugly head and the gay community cowered ... this time clothed in black leather. Pity.

Mark W. LaChey
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan

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Death in the Castro

Your July 27 story about the death of Curtis Oliver Jr., a client at the queer youth shelter currently housed at MCC-SF, was ripe with accusations of cover-up and co-conspiracies. You said you "acted on a tip" to learn of the death, but I was at the church service only three days after the death where the pastors announced the event to the entire congregation. And, since you have covered numerous events at MCC-SF, you should know that these services are open to the public.

Where you see the fact that MCC paid to fly the boy's mother to San Francisco to secretly pull life support before anyone could find out, I see it as a compassionate example of reuniting an impoverished mother with her estranged son on his deathbed.

Where you see the "several hundred" dollars that MCC spent for his mortuary expenses as a way to dispose of incriminating evidence, I see it as a way to help this destitute woman see a dignified ending for her son before returning to her home halfway across the country.

Where you see the hospital's refusal to divulge patient records to the media "without permission of the deceased man's next of kin" as further conspiracy, I see it as the only ethical way to preserve the confidentiality of medical information.

Where you see the refusal of the manager of a book store to talk about the death of his friend as proof that those running the temporary shelter had some sort of secrecy agreement, I see Tommi Mecca as a Castro activist who has no connection to the shelter.

Where you see that the pastor of MCC could not quote exact medical terminology about the cause of death as further sandbagging, I see a reporter asking a non-medical person for medical opinions, and then ridiculing that person for giving a lay person's description as cause of death.

Where you see the fact that the medical examiner could not provide you the death records for a person for whom you did not even have the correct last name as a "computer mix-up," I see a reporter pointing fingers for inadequately researching the facts of the story in the first place.

Where you see the lack of an autopsy being tied to the evil nature of providing shelter for homeless youth (even though the Medical Examiner's office did have samples of the blood and has already begun the process of having toxicological reports made), I see that these tests take six to eight weeks as a fact. It would be an error by the medical examiner to make a "best guess" about their outcome until the tests are complete. Yet the headline placed by the B.A.R. shouts conclusively that "Opiates" were involved in the death.

The bottom line is this: The reporter, like many others in the Castro, is upset that this boy reached a medical crisis under the roof of a shelter, instead of in the middle of the street, as he "should have." The boy died in Davies Medical center, instead of SF General, as he "should have." The boy died in the presence of his biological mother, instead of in total isolation, as he "should have."

In the meantime, the larger problems of drug houses known to all, lack of medical and drug rehabilitation for youth in danger, and the lack of support for queer youth facing an uncertain future on the streets of San Francisco go unanswered, and remain unimportant for the noisy queer folks who have been lucky enough to reach middle class over the past few decades in the Castro.

Gregory Carey
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Reading between the lines is precisely what the B.A.R. has refused to do in covering the story of this young man's death. It was left to a mortuary worker to alert the Medical Examiner's office of the irregularity. Curtis Oliver Jr.'s doctor at Davies hospital had scribbled "opiate-related" on a form and transferred his remains for eventual cremation, without properly reporting the death to authorities.]

According to the M.E., who continues to investigate the cause of death, the hospital had failed to report the fact that the death may have resulted from unnatural causes. This kind of lapse, more common among the interns and residents at teaching hospitals like UCSF/San Francisco General Hospital, is seen less with trained physicians who, certainly if they make a practice of it, could lose their license — not to mention create a lot of bad press for the health care business they work for.

After over a week of increasingly persistent inquiries directed to two private organizations — a gay and lesbian nonprofit community church and a for-profit hospital — the B.A.R. has obtained the true name of a man who had collapsed in the church early last month and died in a hospital a few days later.

Does anyone have a right to know when the body was cremated — before or after the mortuary notified the M.E.? Is withholding such basic information as the actual name of a recently deceased person the prerogative of the Metropolitan Community Church, or of the city and county of San Francisco?

"Death with dignity" means a lot of things to different people. During his life, Oliver was an advocate as well as a client of city-contracted shelter programs for

queer youth, and he spoke publicly of the need for a more comprehensive housing program at 2500 Market Street in the Castro neighborhood.]

Scorched earth politics

The controversy surrounding the Milk Club's endorsement of straight white male candidates over gay and lesbian people of color has little to do with Community College Board Trustee Lawrence Wong and Board of Education member Juanita Owens's superior qualifications or even with the noble goal of electing a diverse slate of queer candidates. Plain and simple it is the Milk Club's payback to Wong and Owens for their support of Mayor Brown over Tom Ammiano in the mayor's race.

Ever since he was overwhelmingly defeated last December, Tom Ammiano and the Milk Club have been practicing a scorched earth policy by attacking anyone who thought that he was not fit for the mayor's office. Instead of supporting Lawrence Wong, a gay man with a proven record of accomplishment as an elected official, he supports Aaron Peskin, whose sole accomplishment seems to have been a leading role in the effort to stop a sex club from moving into his neighborhood. Instead of supporting Juanita Owens, a lesbian who has been a public advocate for our community since serving on the Police Commission under former Mayor Dianne Feinstein, we are asked to support Matt Gonzales, a carpetbagger who seems more interested in seeking elected office than in coming up with a campaign plan.

The community should be appalled at Tom Ammiano and the Milk Club. Just because he has never been able to forge a working relationship with his colleagues, we should not have to support a slate of candidates with dubious credentials. We should support candidates with proven records of accomplishments.

Tom Runge
San Francisco

Pioneers in pain relief

On behalf of Dr. Lowell Houser, I want to thank our many friends, patients, clients, and colleagues who came to Dr. Houser's 75th birthday open house. I also want to thank the staff at Beck's Motor Lodge for their total cooperation so that we can continue to promote healing.

And speaking of healing, I neglected to mention that another gentleman, Henry Kersh, also celebrated his 75th birthday on June 25. Henry's gift of channeling healing energy has been demonstrated time and again, including those with AIDS-related illnesses. Because of Henry's dedication and gift, another man in my life, David Fernandez, had his life extended when his doctors at Davies had given him three days to live. After Dr. Houser's heart attack seven years ago, I credit Henry for his rapid and complete recovery. I also personally witnessed the stirrings of life and movement of both arms and legs of Dylan Katz, the boy in a coma in a Santa Rose hospital, who had been declared "brain dead" by his doctors. Later, one doctor referred to it as a miracle cure, but no credit was ever given by the parents who had many opportunities on TV interviews to tell about Henry's laying-on-of-hands. After working extensively with a lesbian with Epstein-Barr diagnosis, on her later exam it was determined to be benign. Henry is a remarkable man in many other ways.

I am very privileged to have known both these special men and to have witnessed their amazing growth in service to the gay and lesbian community in the Bay Area.

Glenn Schmoll
Mendocino, California

Vote for Nader

The B.A.R.'s columnist, Wayne Friday, says that a vote for Ralph Nader is a "wasted vote," and that "anyone who thinks otherwise should get a taste of political reality." I disagree.

The present two-party system is rotten to the core because of the jillions of dollars through which its candidates are bought and sold. To vote for Nader is to take a stand against a system that sure as hell doesn't represent what I believe in. A vote for Nader is a vote for integrity.

But Friday and others say that Nader can't win, and that a vote for him is, in effect, a vote for Bush. While Nader's chances are slim, we should keep in mind that social changes happen incrementally. If enough of us support Nader now, it will convince others, in the next election, to also vote their ideals. That only about half the people in the country choose to vote in any given election should indicate the level of disgust with the present system, and the potential for change.

It's time to take a stand, and to stop voting for the lesser of two evils. I, for one, want to cast a vote and not feel the need to wash my hands afterward. So don't vote Bore, and don't vote Gush. Vote principle — vote Nader.

Matt Wilson
San Francisco

POLITICS

Gay Republicans sign on with Bush-Cheney

by Wayne Friday

Apparently choosing to overlook a very anti-gay Republican Party platform, the national association of Log Cabin Republicans has endorsed the presidential ticket of **George W. Bush** and **Richard Cheney**.

Robert Stears, the chair of the 11,000-member national gay organization, told reporters that last week's Republican convention in Philadelphia, which permitted Representative **Jim Kolbe** (R-Arizona), the House's only openly gay Republican member to address the delegates — on the stirring issue of international trade — "was a clear sign to all of us that a new Republican Party is emerging." Kolbe, however, made no mention of gay issues (nor did any of the other speakers during the four-day confab) and several members of Bush's home state Texas delegation removed their cowboy hats and bowed their heads in prayer as a protest during Kolbe's speech.

This year, 18 delegates and alternates to the GOP convention were openly gay, however, Bush and Cheney did not meet with or speak to the gays, nor did they make any reference to the gays in attendance. Cheney's 31-year-old lesbian daughter, **Mary**, sat with



Mary Cheney

to gay California delegates to last week's convention were unturned by press time.

Gay and lesbian Democratic activists this week were quick to criticize the Log Cabinites for "placing their party politics ahead of gay rights" and for "ignoring the issue of gay rights and simply overlooking the anti-gay GOP platform." Democratic gay activists pointed out that their party ticket of Vice President **Al Gore** and Connecticut U.S. Senator **Joseph Lieberman** both had long histories of supporting gay causes while Bush and Cheney were well known for their anti-gay views.

The endorsement of the Log Cabin Republicans of the conservative, anti-gay GOP ticket comes as no surprise to most, but the idea that they can quickly become apologists for the ticket and now must explain their party's homophobic platform should be interesting as the campaign picks up.

Just how welcome are gays and lesbians in the "compassionate" party of George W. Bush and Richard Cheney? Tolerated, but hardly welcome. Hell, Mary Cheney wouldn't even meet Log Cabin members.

And speaking of Mary Cheney, she was repeatedly picked up by television cameras sitting in the audience dutifully applauding her father and George W. Bush, but while the Bush family went begging for interviews, practically chasing down the likes of **Dan Rather**, **Tom Brokow**, and **Larry King**, the Cheney family (particularly Mary) was "off limits" to the national press. Mary Cheney, reportedly a familiar figure in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood, the hub of that city's gay and lesbian community, lives in Conifer, a small town outside Denver, with her partner of five years, **Heather Poe**, and after working for six years as a marketing emissary to the gay community for Coors Brewing, left the company earlier this year to pursue an MBA at the University of Colorado.

Other than observing her occasionally at gay/lesbian functions with Mary Cheney, little is known about her partner, Ms. Poe, and the Cheney family apparently likes it that way, as all requests for interviews were quickly denied. Friends say Mary Cheney has never been considered a gay activist, but has been known as an "out" lesbian since before she graduated from Colorado College in 1991; her father was the commencement speaker that year, and she is thought to be closer personally to her father than to her mother, **Lynne**.

Mary Cheney's personal politics aren't well known, but one close friend said last week that her values "are so close to her father's that she would never step out against his party in public." Apparently, Dick Cheney, who some say considers his daughter a "close, trusted adviser," is willing to accept the fact that there are gay individuals, but, like George W. Bush, is unwilling to grant them rights on such issues as marriage, adoption, serving in the military,

or protection against hate crimes.

Possibly only a coincidence, but Mary Cheney's partner was nowhere near Philadelphia last week though her sister, **Elizabeth Cheney-Perry**, was in the VIP section and later appeared with the Cheney and Bush families on stage with her husband and children.

GOP convention buzz

The Republicans had the hunky former child star, **Rick Schroder** of *NYPD Blue*, now the father of three, who describes himself as a "staunch Republican" who says he's "not certain" about allowing gays in the military, but hastens to add that "I think we're all God's children, and there's room for all of us in this party." (Hey, the Log Cabinites should be happy to hear that!)

And we mustn't forget **George P. Bush**, the 24-year-old handsome nephew of Dubya, and son of Florida Governor **Jeb Bush**, who was knocking them dead with his flashy Colgate smile and who parlayed his Ricky Martin impression into big crowds and plenty of television time until he got carried away and foolishly compared his uncle, the Texas governor, to the farm workers union leader **Cesar Chavez**.

Where was the Christian right during last week's convention? They were there — celebrating their dream ticket of Bush and Cheney, but they were kept hidden away in the convention background — the "political" closet so to speak. **Pat Robertson**, **Jerry Falwell**, **Phyllis Schlafly**, all still very much in control of the national Republican Party. In fact, Schlafly went on television to praise the GOP platform that "saves the party's anti-abortion commitment," while Robertson, barely able to control his glee at the Bush-Cheney ticket, promised that the Christian Coalition would "work tirelessly" to make sure, as Robertson put it, that "we elect a man who will put righteous judges on the Supreme Court of the United States."

But at least one Republican couldn't let the confab go without an obnoxious comment. House Majority Leader **Dick Armey**, who once referred to openly gay Representative **Barney Frank** (D-Massachusetts) on the House floor as "Barney Fag" seems to be a bit obsessed by the popular gay Democrat. Last week, Armey, being teased about his name at a GOP cocktail party in Philadelphia, was overheard commenting: "Yes, I am Dick Armey; if there was a dick army, Barney Frank would want to join up." I think Frank might be wondering what Armey's fascination with him is all about.

Former 49er superstar **Steve Young** kicked off what many see as a bright political future in the Republican Party (in Utah, or possibly California, though the Bay Area, where he also has a home, is a Democratic stronghold) when he delivered the invocation at last Wednesday's opening session.

ABC's celebrated anchor **Diane Sawyer** reportedly sent a huge basket of flowers to Mary Cheney's hotel in hopes of landing an interview, but no dice. And while Mary reportedly gave up the name of her partner, the two

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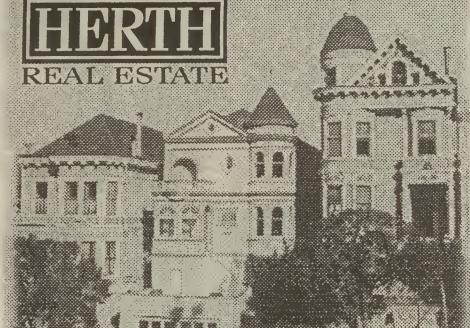


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The tolerance party

by Dale Carpenter

When George W. Bush finished his acceptance speech, with its stirring proclamation, "I believe in tolerance," the first song to play was a Latin tune recently popularized by Ricky Martin. It was the perfect ending to the closet convention.

Bush never spelled out who should be tolerated or what form that tolerance should take. It wasn't meant for women or racial minorities, since Republicans had already openly embraced them and it would be odd for a modern politician to say he "tolerates" women and racial minorities.

That leaves gays to be tolerated. So gay Republicans welcomed yet another in a parade of subtle signs that the party wants them. Others were free to interpret Bush differently.

"I believe in tolerance" is a long rhetorical distance from Pat Buchanan's declaration of a "culture war" at the same convention just eight years ago. But there is something peculiar and halting about this new brand of GOP tolerance. It asks gays to come inside — but to sit still once there.

Tolerance doesn't hate gays. In fact, it loves them — in the closet. Despite all the hoopla from skeptical gay organizations and activists, that is progress.

Under Bush's tolerance, gays will not likely be arrested in their homes because the anti-gay Texas sodomy law he supports is only a "symbolic gesture," he says. The new tolerance preserves symbols of disapproval but is embarrassed to act on them.

So gays can serve in the military as long as they keep quiet. George Bush and Dick Cheney "Don't Ask" as long as you "Don't Tell." That's the bargain the military struck with gays under President Clinton. It has written the closet into American law. And it's one old chestnut the new Repub-

licans refuse to crack.

The closet, often defended as a situs of "privacy," is prized real estate for both moderate homophobes and ashamed gays. It is a space in which the former may declare he's tolerant and the latter may pretend he isn't despised.

The closet is detested by true-believing gay-haters who would prefer to pursue and punish the homosexuals they find there. The military's anti-gay witch-hunts are a model for this. It's clear Bush is not a true-believing gay-hater.

So Republican Congressman Jim Kolbe, the most respected and respectable openly gay officeholder in the country, was allowed to speak to the delegates. It was much better than eight years ago, when no openly gay person spoke. It was better than four years ago, when a gay person whose homosexuality was known to his friends, but not to delegates, spoke.

Kolbe's address was purchased at the price that he could not acknowledge his homosexuality, or talk about gay issues, or even use the word "gay," from the lecturer. Tolerance could let an openly gay man speak under the illusion that he isn't gay. He could be out and remain in the closet at the same time.

So Mary Cheney, the openly gay daughter of the party's vice presidential nominee, was allowed to sit with her parents in the convention hall. Gay activists, in an understandable but pathetic yearning for affirmation, scoured seating charts to determine whether Mary's partner had been allowed to sit near her. She wasn't there. That would have put Mary on a par with her sister, whose heterosexuality was shamelessly paraded before TV cameras in the form of her two children. Tolerance isn't ready for equality.

Lyne Cheney, Mary's mother, announced how proud she was of her "hard-working" and "decent" daughter. But then she denied her

daughter had ever publicly acknowledged her homosexuality, an assertion so contrary to the public record it had the ring of pathological self-delusion. Tolerance prefers not to admit publicly what everyone knows. If it can't have the reality of the closet it will have the form.

The national Republican platform states the new tolerance doctrine perfectly: gays should have "no standing in law." It's not really that gays should be persecuted; it's that they shouldn't be recognized at all.

The Republican Party, the organizational embodiment of conservatism in this country, has learned a valuable lesson from its two consecutive defeats in presidential elections. Homosexuals are among us and they will not be eliminated by any means acceptable to the American people. The question now for conservatism is, what is to be done with them?

One option is to pursue a religious crusade against gays, investigating them, kicking in their doors, praying for their souls when they speak, and calling them "errant," as Jerry Falwell puts it. Another option is to welcome gays into the institutions of American life, like the military and marriage, connecting them with mainstream values. Bush hinted at the latter option when he said that his tolerance came from, not despite, his religious faith.

Eschewing both of these options for now, the GOP has decided to rest on an unstable middle ground. Like the closet itself, it's better than some conceivable alternatives, and it's an undeniable improvement over where we have been, but it's not a stopping place. ▼

Marin Pride

◀ page 5

Dance for queer youth begins at 8 p.m. at the Marin Interfaith Youth Organization Teen Center, 1115 Third Street, in San Rafael. Admission is a \$5 requested donation. More information can be obtained by calling (415) 457-1115, extension 201. For those who are a little older, spend your evening at the "Déjà Vu" party, featuring "Disco, Divas, and More," at the Seafood Peddler's ballroom. Déjà Vu carries a \$12 cover charge for the night and doors open at 8 p.m.

The Saturday parties may be fun, but be sure to rise and shine on Sunday for the third annual amateur softball tournament in San Anselmo. The co-ed, round-robin tournament is sponsored by the Marin chapter of the National Organization for Women and will be played at Memorial Park, behind the Spectrum building. Players are requested to make a \$5 donation. Call (415) 457-1115, extension 201, to request or be placed on a team.

Next it's time to wash up and head to Mill Valley for Rula Planter's "Galaxy Drag Show," held at the Acqua Hotel. The cover charge is \$6. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Finally, wrapping up the festivities on a low-key note, the Marin AIDS Project will host a social gathering for men at the Panama Hotel in San Rafael on Monday, August 21, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

What makes Marin Pride so special this year, according to Spectrum's Yuna, is that it was conceived and created by all the groups working together.

"It was a real collaboration," said Yuna. "And it's going to be really cool." ▼

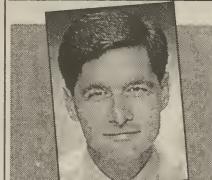
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MEDIA ALERT

Dr. Laura loses more advertisers

compiled by GLAAD

Following the lead of Procter & Gamble, a major advertiser that announced in June it would not advertise on the upcoming Paramount-syndicated Laura Schlessinger television show, nor continue with her Premiere Radio Networks-syndicated show, many other companies have followed suit.

The latest big names to distance themselves from Schlessinger's brand of pseudo-clinical defamation are Sears, Roebuck & Co. and EchoStar Communications Corp. Sears' statement reads: "Sears supports both diversity and culture throughout our customer base and within our own associate networks. We will no longer advertise on the Dr. Laura show as a result of recent comments."

EchoStar's release stated: "As an equal opportunity employer, EchoStar's corporate culture does not reflect or support Dr. Laura's views nor did we make a conscious effort to 'stand by' as a sponsor of her show."

Some companies that no longer are advertising have not specifically referenced the controversy around Schlessinger in their reason, but instead have said they would not be renewing contracts, others have given explicit reasons. Geico Insurance said it would not continue advertising because "GEICO is an equal opportunity employer and does not condone discrimination of any type directed toward any minority." More.com said "by no means do we share Dr. Schlessinger's views. In fact, we have pulled out all advertisements."

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to thank these companies for whatever their reasons are for not supporting people and programs that hurt others.

Contact AT&T, Customer Services, P.O. Box 1288, Pittsburgh, PA 15230; e-mail through a form found at http://www.att.com/cgi-bin/ATT_WEB/feedback/write/corp_exec.html?id=wts_corp_policies&parseform=1

Geico Insurance, Ted Ward, Vice President of Marketing, 1 Geico Plaza, Washington, D.C. 20076; fax: 301-986-2068.

Kraft Foods, Inc., Marketing, 1 Kraft Court, Glenview, IL 60025; telephone: (800) 323-0768; e-mail through a form found at <http://www.kraftfoods.com/html/email/email.html>

More.com, Jennifer Ianniello, Marketing Coordinator, 520 Third St., Suite 245, San Francisco, CA 94107; fax: (415) 979-9598; e-mail through a form found at http://www.more.com/company/cm_contacts.html

Procter & Gamble, P.O. Box 599, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45201; telephone: 1-800-331-3774; e-mail through a form found at <http://www.pg.com/about/contact1.htm>

Sears, Roebuck and Co., Sears Customer Relations, 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60179, telephone: (800) 549-4505, e-mail through a form found at <http://www.sears.com> by clicking on "customer service," "contact Sears" and then "other customer issues."

SkyTel Communications Inc., Allison Lee, Advertising Promotion Manager, SkyTel Centre, 200 South Lamar St., Jackson, Miss. 39201, e-mail through a form found at <http://www.skytel.com> by clicking on "contact."

Toys "R" Us, John Eyler, CEO, 461 From Road, Paramus, NJ 07652; telephone: (888) 869-7932; e-mail through a form found at <http://www.toysrus.com> by clicking on "contact us."

United Airlines, Customer Relations, P.O. Box 66100, Chicago, IL 60666; telephone: (847) 700-6796; e-mail through a form found at http://www.united.com/site/prmaryNC/1/10022006_00.html

Xerox, Christa Carone, Media Relations, 100 Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14644; comment line: (716) 423-2096, e-mail through a form found at <http://www.xerox.com> by clicking on "feedback."

Contact Priceline.com, Brian Ek, Vice President of Corporate Communications, 800 Connecticut Ave., Norwalk, Conn. 06854; fax: (203) 299-8933, e-mail through a form found at http://www.priceline.com/PricelineASPCustomerService/email/email_templates.asp?product=General&subject=GenFeedback&path=0

Natrol, Inc., Meline Adinians, Marketing/Advertising, 2141 Prairie St., Chatsworth, CA 91311; telephone: (800) 326-1520; e-mail: adinians@natrol.com

Advertising without thought

An ad campaign by TheStreet.com, a Web-based provider of investment news and commentary,

lists three concepts or topics together and then, in an attempt at humor, links them with a catch phrase as to why the information provided by the Web page is needed by smart investors.

A recent ad lists the three concepts as: mail-order bride, transsexual and Internet stock. The punch line is "It never hurts to do a little research before bringing one home." To categorize transsexuals as something to be suspicious of is using a negative image that is both unfair and insensitive. It also helps breed intolerance and fear of gender-varient people.

Let TheStreet.com know it should think about what messages this type of callous advertising sends. Also contact TheStreet.com's advertising agency, DeVito/Verdi, with the same concerns.

Contact TheStreet.com, Abby Marr, Vice President of Planning/Communications, 14 Wall St., 14th Fl., New York, NY 10005, fax: (212) 321-5016; e-mail: amarr@thestreet.com DeVito/Verdi, Dave Matson, TheStreet.com Account Manager, 100 6th Ave., 12th Fl., New York, NY 10013; fax: (212) 431-4940.

Lesbian moms covered

As part of a series of national television ads that are human interest stories, John Hancock Financial Services Inc. includes one that features two women at an airport talking about the baby they obviously have just adopted. While

denting on the baby, the women talk about what good moms they are going to be and how they are going to be a family. The subtext is that they are a lesbian couple.

John Hancock uses the scene to promote a financial product that could be of interest to families. That the women are portrayed as just that – a family – is a strong statement by the company, one that recognizes same-sex couples and their families have the same needs as any other family and are deserving of the same respect and consideration.

Please contact John Hancock and express your appreciation for this inclusion and for joining the ever-growing ranks of advertisers that see the value in treating all people equally.

Contact John Hancock Financial Services, Inc., Lisa Scannell, Director of Advertising, P.O. Box 111, Boston, Mass. 02116; e-mail through a form found at <http://www.johnancock.com> by clicking on "How to reach us" and then "General Information." ▶

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's toll-free AlertLine 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

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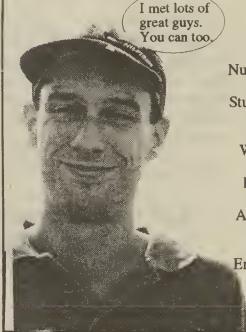
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Hate crime suspect arrested

by Jane Warner

I 00 block of Collingwood, August 1, 10:40 p.m.: A man who was wanted in connection with a hate crime against a couple pushing a baby stroller has been arrested. The suspect, accused of the June 11 attack of a lesbian couple pushing their infant in a stroller near Church and Market, was apprehended on the evening of August 5 by two Castro beat officers. A warrant for \$5,000 had been issued by the District Attorney's office for his arrest. The officers on duty observed the suspect shoplifting inside Walgreens and arrested him without incident. Booked was Donald McKeon, 38.

On second thought

4 300 block of 18th Street, August 3, a.m.: A woman woke in the middle of the night to the sound of someone inside her backyard. When she looked out her upstairs window, she saw a man rattling the door knob to her back door. The woman went downstairs with her dog, who ran to the door and started barking. The suspect, de-

scribed as a white male, 20-30 years old, 6 feet tall and weighing 175 pounds, wearing a dark wool cap and dark clothing, climbed over the woman's fence and into another yard, responding police were unable to find him.

Sidewalk service

Noah's Bagels, 401 Castro, August 1, 1:10 p.m.: A man sitting outside in front of the bagel shop, aggressively panhandling customers, drinking a beer, and urinating on the sidewalk, became enraged when the manager asked him to move on. Using several profanities, the man got up and threw a cup of unknown liquid in the manager's face. Responding police found the suspect in Harvey Milk Plaza. Booked for battery was Paul Sanchez, 46.

On the wagon

1 5th and Market, July 29, 9 p.m.: Police responded to a complaint of people doing drugs in the 76 gas station parking lot. When officers arrived, they observed a man drop two plastic bags of methamphetamine to his feet. The man stated, "These aren't mine, I just found them on the ground." A

"I've been rehearsing," he said, "for 22 years."

The candidate has been busy racking up endorsements, including San Francisco Sheriff Mike Hennessey, and a smattering of mayoral appointees, including Health Commission President Roma Guy, Office Citizen Complaints Director Mary Dunlap, and Fire Commissioner Pat Nor-

man check revealed that the man was on probation for drug related charges. Pleading with officers not to take him in because, "I haven't shot up since this morning," the man was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where he was treated for his addiction and large skin abscesses. Booked for possession of controlled substances and probation violation was Matthew Swan, 29.

Here's my card

Duboce and Market, August 4, 6 a.m.: A car traveling eastbound on Market was struck by a gray Mercury that was attempting to change lanes. The victim's car jumped the median barrier and came to a rest after ramming a palm tree. The driver of the Mercury got out, threw an expired insurance card at the other driver, then got back into his car and drove away. The driver who was hit complained of pain to his head but refused medical treatment. Damage to his 1999 vehicle was estimated at several thousand dollars. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

man. "I think there are many fights to fight," Wilson said. "There's a time to network and build coalitions. And sometimes you can make a difference by being in the supporting cast, and sometimes on center stage."

From a shared booth at the Dore Alley street fair on July 29, Wilson was busy gathering signatures for a city ballot initiative aiming to stop displacement of renters from the city, dubbed the "Daughter of Prop. M."

"The alternative that the mayor put out, which is in response to the will of the people, is shortsighted," he stated, "because it only deals with the displacement in the Mission, and doesn't deal with South of Market, and does not deal with the live-work scams."

No puppets needed

Also handing out small yellow leaflets noting his "22 years advocating, working, and renting in District 6," Wilson acknowledged taking a pointed jab at Mayor Willie Brown's anointed candidate, who moved into the district the day before the deadline.

The back of the flier touts a list of 30 organizations Wilson has worked with beginning in the mid-1970s, including many that he co-founded, such as the Gay Teachers Coalition, the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club [now the Harvey Milk Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Democratic Club], Community United Against Violence, the Gay and Lesbian Speaker's Bureau, the Gay Youth Advocacy Council, the Tenderloin AIDS Network, ACT UP/Golden Gate [now Survive AIDS], Mobilization Against AIDS, and the first AIDS Memorial Candlelight March in 1983.

"We need a leader with compassion and experience, not a puppet," reads the campaign literature. ▶



Hank Wilson

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tous Wilson, 53, hopes to parlay his familiarity to people who know him – people he has helped and people he has worked with to solve some of the city's most intractable problems – into a viable campaign.



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Crimes against gays and lesbians in South Africa's apartheid era

by S. Predrag

South Africa's apartheid-era doctors tried to "cure" homosexuals with electric shocks, while chemical sterilizations and even sex-change operations were reserved for "incurable cases."

It is not the first time that these accusations have been lodged against certain doctors and surgeons who experimented in such a monstrous way on gay and lesbian conscripts during the 1970s and 1980s. However, this time the South African Medical Research Council, the Health and Human Rights Project, and the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality commissioned a study that details the inhumane treatments some homosexuals were forced to endure.

In the report entitled: "The Aversion Project: Human Rights Abuses of Gays and Lesbians in the South African Defense Force by Health Workers During the Apartheid Era," most accusations are aimed at Dr. Aubrey Levine, the former chief psychiatrist at the Voortrekkerhoogte military hospital in Pretoria. In the mid 1990s, Levine emigrated to Canada where he now works at the University of Calgary as a forensics expert.

Levine used "aversion therapy," together with banned narco-drugs

and electric shock treatment, in the psychiatric wards of military hospitals. In fact, according to the report that was partially published in the South African media, the experiments started the moment the new recruits arrived at the barracks.

Those suspected of being gay and lesbian were separated and sent to psychiatric wards where Levine and his colleagues tried "to cure" them using narco-drugs and severe electric shocks.

In the case of gay suspects, they were shown black and white photos of men with erections and were then "treated" with severe electric shocks that would only stop when they were shown pictures of nude women and had a reaction.

It is believed that during the 1970s and 1980s around 50 sex-change operations were performed annually. The report claims that some patients died on the operating table while others committed suicide.

After the apartheid military doctors stopped performing sex-change operations in 1989, an undisclosed number of patients were left practically mutilated. Some were left with both sex organs and, in most cases, without the option of hormone treatment that was extremely expensive and therefore out of bounds for most of the victims, the report stated.

Levine and his colleagues have denied almost all the accusations leveled at them and are claiming that the patients "voluntarily" accepted the "aversion therapy" treatment and sex-change operations. However, the report also cites those who claim that they were threatened with "jail for life" if they did not consent to a sex-change operation.

NCGLE, based in Johannesburg, sharply condemned the monstrous treatment of gay and lesbian conscripts during the apartheid era and has called for an official investigation of the numerous crimes committed by military doctors in South Africa. NCGLE has also asked all the victims of incomplete sex-change operations to call its office so that they can be helped with legal and medical advice.

Most representatives of the present South African army command have declined to comment on the crimes against humanity committed during the apartheid era – because military doctors were involved – or they are claiming that they were not aware of the procedures performed on homosexual recruits.

However, an army spokesman told the South African media last week that, "The ministry is prepared to 'favorably' consider an investigation if there is formal request."

Hank Wilson

◀ previous page

ature. "We deserve a leader with independent vision that serves people, not a political machine."

Last summer, after Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano had declined to enter the mayor's race in time to be on the ballot for the November general election, Wilson took it upon himself to set up "Ammiano for Mayor" booths at the Folsom and Castro street fairs, signing up potential donors and volunteers to recruit the openly gay supervisor for a write-in campaign. After Ammiano decided to go for it just three weeks prior to the election, Wilson was the volunteer manager for the supervisor's base of operations at the former Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint in the Castro.

"People said it couldn't be done," he recalled of Ammiano's second-place finish, putting him into the December 1999 runoff against the mayor.

Wilson has no Web site yet, and he's still using his listed home telephone number for campaigning, but he recently opened a storefront campaign office at 53 Mason Street on the ground floor of the Ambassador Hotel, an SRO he leased and managed in the heart of the Tenderloin, where he helped to create a successful and now-widely duplicated "integrated services" HIV/AIDS model for multi-diagnosed indigent adults. The Ambassador is now run by a nonprofit corporation.

"It's like a homecoming for me there," he told the Bay Area Reporter.



Hank Wilson cleans up his new campaign headquarters.

The activist-cum-supervisor hopes to ignite an Ammiano-like volunteer-run grassroots campaign, and plans a grand opening of his campaign headquarters the day after Labor Day, on Tuesday, September 6.

Currently a member of the Department of Public Health's Treatment on Demand Council, Wilson sees the problem of substance abuse as connected to much of his other work.

"When I talk about treatment on demand, I know it because I worked [at the Ambassador] for 18 years. I've seen hundreds of people get their lives together because help was available," said

Wilson, decrying the city's current housing wait list that contains over 1,000 names. "And treatment on demand is especially compelling because speed and poppers are fueling the AIDS epidemic right now. One of the priorities of my campaign is to make people realize that it's a smart investment to reduce crime and hospitalization and other problems."

"The problems that we're facing today are not necessarily new," he acknowledged. "The thing that is new and is intensifying is the displacement, it's having a ripple effect. We're taking longtime residents that used to live in the Mission and SOMA and these high tech people come in, displacing people all over ... the Planning Department is failing."

Wilson has a lot of creative ideas he wants to promote on the board. For example, he spoke about creating an "emergency eviction prevention fund," a gay and lesbian historical museum, scheduling performance rehearsals for seniors at Laguna Honda Hospital, a city mediation team to help troubled residents, open artists' studios on the city's piers, and supporting the late night entertainment industry in the South of Market.

"I want a better world," Wilson said. "My attitude and what drives my activism is that 'we can do better.' It doesn't mean that we spend more money. But we can do things better, fine-tuning programs and working with people on new ideas. The soul of San Francisco is at stake when we have a record number of homeless dying on the street in the midst of a booming economy."

"Pretty disgusting, isn't it?" ▶

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Another advisory group forming for Castro youth shelter

by Terry Beswick

It's been a year since the first public meetings were hastily organized by Supervisors Mark Leno and Leslie Katz to announce their draft proposal to open a queer youth shelter in the Castro at the site of the old City Athletic Club gym at 2500 Market at Castro street.

A lot has changed since then. While the San Francisco Planning Commission still must approve a conditional use permit to open the facility later this month, city health officials are seeking nominees for an advisory group to "represent all residents of the Castro/Market neighborhood" and to "ensure high quality program implementation and ongoing operation while minimizing disruptions to neighbors' existing quality of life."

A multitude of soul-searching, angst-ridden meetings have taken place since neighbors of the facility were roiled by the supervisors' surprise announcement, championed since then mainly by Leno. Chief among the concerns expressed was the inadequate "process" city officials employed in respecting the neighbors' right to know what was being planned and about the potential "magnet effect" the facility would have for homeless people, crime, and drugs to the

neighborhood.

But the upshot of all the thousands of hours of research and meetings that neighbors, city officials, and activists have dedicated to debating and defining what would and would not be acceptable is that a year has gone by, and to date, the facility is still not open, and remodeling has not yet begun.

Moreover, while a small six-bed shelter is operating without city funding or oversight at the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco on Eureka Street, no program currently exists in the Castro comparable to the longer-term housing program envisioned for 2500 Market Street, replete with counseling and referral programs for the "at-risk" population of queer homeless youth.

"I support 2500 Market Street being formed as a transitional housing facility," commented Eileen Hansen, a Castro resident who is running for supervisor in District 8 against incumbent Leno. "While I have not been involved in it recently, I continue to believe that a better process can be developed that will be respectful of all the neighborhood concerns."

After no other bids were received by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, which is overseeing the project, a \$600,000 contract was awarded



Another advisory group is needed for the 2500 Market St. shelter project

by DPH to the Ark of Refuge, the same nonprofit group that ran the temporary shelter programs for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender youth last year at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, as well as the temporary shelter that operated earlier this year at the former Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church in Noe Valley.

As often vitriolic, self-appointed neighborhood advisory group, which from the beginning had been bitterly divided on the concept of establishing any kind

was the case with the former EVRC shelter on Collingwood Street, the oversight board felt that the facility was drawing more vagrancy, crime, and drugs to the neighborhood.

"I wish that Supervisor Leno had used a different process," Hansen told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I feel like some of the neighbors were alienated by Supervisor Leno from the beginning because they felt like the project was a done deal before they had a chance to comment on it."

New advisory board

Last week, however, DPH issued a news release announcing that they will be forming a seven-member group to serve as a liaison between the neighborhood and the transitional housing facility. Called the 2500 Market Advisory Committee, its members are to be appointed by Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz. According to the release, positions are to be filled as follows: three neighborhood members living within a three-block radius of the building; two members with experience as nonprofit health and human service providers (not affiliated with the Ark of Refuge); one "young" person knowledgeable about the program's target population; and one representative of the Merchants of Upper

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■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Also, taking CRIXIVAN with any products containing St. John's wort, an herbal supplement, is not recommended because it may decrease the effectiveness of CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹ Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.

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(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules



Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. Take CRIXIVAN capsules **every day as prescribed by your doctor**. Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. Take CRIXIVAN capsules **every 8 hours around the clock, every day**. It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, **wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time**. However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. Take CRIXIVAN **with water**. You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal**. Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
6. Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.

It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) **throughout the day, every day**. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.

Also talk to your doctor if you have:

- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia
- High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines, herbal products including St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), or dietary supplements.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

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Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?**

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
ORAP® (pimozide)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
PROPULSID® (cisapride)	

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with the following: Rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®. Taking CRIXIVAN with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Taking St. John's wort has been shown to decrease CRIXIVAN levels and may lead to decreased effectiveness of CRIXIVAN and other HIV-related drugs.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIVIR® (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)	ISONIAZID (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	Methadone

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat. Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

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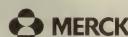
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Log Cabin group endorses George Bush

by Bob Roehr

Log Cabin Republicans endorsed George W. Bush for president last Friday, August 4. The move was not automatic, as the group had refused to support their national ticket in the past. But this year the endorsement vote was 109-2 as representatives of 45 local chapters met in Philadelphia following the Republican National Convention.

LCR chairman Robert Stears recounted how Bush had begun a dialogue with the gay community in April by meeting with a dozen gay Republicans in Austin, Texas, and appeared with them at a news conference following the meeting. There has been a series of substantive discussions with campaign staff over the months that followed.



Log Cabin's Rich Tafel

Openly gay Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona) was selected to speak at the convention, and Log Cabin activities were included

among the regular convention events. Stears saw "a new Republican Party emerging" from the homophobia that dominated the 1992 convention in Houston.

"Governor Bush has made it clear that he will select people for his administration on the basis of their merits alone, for their abilities and strengths, and not on the basis of their sexual orientation," said Stears.

"There was a lot of progress at the convention," said Rich Tafel, executive director of LCR. "Everyone has been extremely upbeat about the way we were treated." It appears that a rift between the Bush campaign and Log Cabin, specifically Tafel, has been healed, at least for now.

Former Congressman Steve Gunderson was one of the dozen who met with Bush in Austin. He was favorably impressed with the governor but not ready to endorse

him in April. "There have been a lot of conversations with staff since that time and they have all been in the right direction with the right message." He now supports Bush.

Gunderson gave Bush credit for trying to change the party platform. "But you need to understand who is doing this [writing the platform], these are the purest of the pure of the pure" in terms of hard core ideologues.

"Whatever Mary Cheney [the lesbian daughter of Bush's running mate, Dick Cheney] does or doesn't say publicly speaks volumes," Gunderson said. "I think that they [the campaign] make a mistake by not having her out front, using her. I think that she would be eloquent."

Gunderson said that Mary Cheney "breaks the stereotype propaganda" by the far right of who

gay people are and where they come from. It is not because of "bad parenting, we are by creation of God, period."

The demon of the 1992 Republican convention, Pat Buchanan, is now seeking the Reform Party presidential nomination. He spoke with professional homophobe Peter LaBarbera of the Lambda Report. "I think the Bush campaign and the Republican Party want to make peace with the [homosexual] Log Cabin [Republicans]," said Buchanan. "They want to have an entente with the Log Cabin club, I think that's the future of the Bush Republicans." LaBarbera lamented Buchanan's words.

The Human Rights Campaign and the Stonewall Democrats, both of whom support Al Gore, professed amazement at the Log Cabin endorsement. ▼

Canadian gay stockbroker with AIDS retains civil rights attorney

by David Batterson

Renowned civil rights attorney Julius Grey has been retained as defense counsel to G. DeWolf Shaw in the *National Bank Financial and National Bank of Canada v. G. DeWolf Shaw* case.

On July 17, National Bank Financial and National Bank of Canada won a Safeguard Order against Shaw to "render inaccessible to the public" Shaw's New York State registered Web site (www.nationalbankfinancial.com), a site which Shaw has owned since last September.

On June 30, the same day that National Bank Financial canceled Shaw's private medical insurance, Shaw had activated www.nationalbankfinancial.com. He stated that the site would "announce on July 15" how Shaw intended to finance his AIDS medication and future legal costs.

Shaw, who has had asymptomatic AIDS since 1996, has medical expenses of over \$40,000 per year. Shaw was terminated by National Bank Financial on January 6, 1999 and is currently seeking reinstatement with the company. Shaw's legal costs to date exceed \$200,000.

Shaw's other sites, www.civilrightslegalfund.com and www.worldaidsnewsnet.com – registered in the Province of Ontario – were also ordered to be heavily censored. On July 21, Shaw established another site, www.noncensored.com. Shaw does not own the domain names. Shaw said he is "delighted that Maître Grey has agreed to represent me in this case. Maître Grey's career has been totally dedicated to protecting the constitutionally protected civil rights of Quebecers."

The stockbroker said "as the new technologies of our times – namely the Internet – are becoming so rapidly converged with our basic civil liberties, this case will determine what kind of freedom of expression on the Internet will exist for our children and grandchildren and the extent to which the Canadian Chartered Banks can control that freedom of expression in the future."

"I am fortunate to have had numerous attorneys in Canada and in the U.S. advise me on the process. I will need, however, to raise a substantial amount of money to finance those expenses and to stay healthy. I cannot win if I am dead, dead broke or both," Shaw said.

Shaw continued, "That is why I must win this case on Internet censorship. Until then, I will continue to represent myself in my charges against National Bank Financial and First Marathon (U.S.A.) Inc. in Quebec and in the

Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

In 1997, Grey won a historic decision in the Supreme Court of Canada, in the *Robert Libman-Equality Party v. the Attorney General of Quebec* case. It struck down

parts of Quebec's Referendum Law on the basis of violations of the freedom of expression provisions of both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. ▼

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*testosterone

Co-sponsored by STOP AIDS Project, Harvey Milk Institute, FTM International, and Tranny Fest Transgender & Transgenre Cinema.

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(Sign up now for part 3 on August 23)

17 THURS 7 pm **Positive Force presents Survive/Thrive**
for HIV+ men of all ages and colors
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Followed by a social at 9:15 pm

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25 FRI 8 pm **Our Love: The Series II presents Living Long Nuff to See Hope Come Back**
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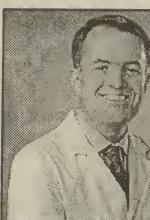
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Pride money

◀ page 1

end of the fiscal year, Witherington predicted the organization will end the financial year comfortably in the black.

"The finances, right now, look pretty rosy," Witherington told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We've identified all potential expenses for the rest of the fiscal year and collected all income."

Some outstanding bills will be paid between now and September 30, he added, including a \$20,000 bill to the Department of Public Works. Witherington explained that he hasn't yet received other bills, such as those from the San Francisco Police Department, private security, and what he described as a "small" cleaning bill for the Federal Building. "It was left a little dirty, so they cleaned it up and billed us," said Witherington.

Witherington estimated that

the Pride Committee will have a surplus of about \$70,000 by the time all the bills are paid. Once the fiscal year ends, the committee's books will be submitted to its auditor for a full accounting, the results of which will be released in January.

Board President Calvin Gipson said that this year's Pride events were the most successful ever. "We have had an outstanding year. The event was the smoothest it has ever been. We had the most diverse program, the most spectacular parade, the largest attendance, no arrests, and to cap it all, a financial result which allows us to give back a record amount to the community. This is 'success' in anyone's language and our entire community can be proud of this achievement in the 30th anniversary of our parade," Gipson said.

The organizations that received money through the community partner program include: Breast Cancer Action, Harvey

Milk Institute, Proyecto Contra SIDA, AIDS Legal Referral Panel, GLBT Historical Society of Northern California, Community United Against Violence, Castro Lions Club, Dignity, Freedom in Christ Evangelical Church of San Francisco, Bears of San Francisco, Golden Gate Guards, Knights of Malta, Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, Men of All Colors Together, PAWS, Ark of Refuge, California Men's Gathering, FTM International, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Nomenus/Radical Faeries, Positive Resource Center, San Francisco Bowlers Emergency Aid Relief, Council of Grand Dukes and Duchesses of San Francisco, Full Circle Community Counseling and Support Services, Project Open Hand, Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group, Sundance Country Association, East Bay Pride, Gay Softball League, San Francisco Spikes, Alameda County Leather Corps, and the Imperial Council of San Francisco. ▼

Lieberman

◀ page 1

critic of Hollywood for sex and violence in the fare it offers, including programming such as *Jerry Springer*. Last year he said that the popular television sitcom *Friends* should be moved to a late night time slot because of its racism and sexual innuendo.

Lieberman joined with cultural conservative icon William Bennett in the late 1990s to begin presenting the "Silver Sewer" awards to cultural polluters. He has been a leading advocate of censorship software for television and rating systems for music and video games.

However, his latest financial disclosure forms indicate that he holds stock in Fox and CBS, two of the very companies he has criticized.

"Conservative Christians will find themselves very happy with Lieberman's views on the issues," said Ken Sherrill, a professor of political science at Hunter College in New York, and a gay and Democratic activist.

That was reflected in the warm embrace that conservative columnist George F. Will greeted the nomination. He called Gore's decision "wise and tough-minded."

Sherrill's evaluation was the opposite. "We just don't need a sex negative prig near the White House."

A first

Comparisons are being made with John F. Kennedy, who was the first Catholic elected to national office, and Lieberman's selection as a Jew. But the comparisons are not exact.

While Kennedy practiced his faith in the most nominal sense, religion plays a very important role in Lieberman's life. As an Orthodox Jew, itself a minority of

only 10 percent of practicing Jews in America (who constitute 2 percent of the total population), Lieberman follows kosher dietary laws and does not work on the Sabbath, from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

That led him to miss the state Democratic convention that nominated him for the Senate in 1988. On those rare occasions when the Senate conducts business on Saturday, Lieberman has walked the five miles to and from his Georgetown home rather than ride in a car. Orthodoxy does have some flexibility when the life or well-being of another is at stake and it should not inhibit his functioning as vice president.

Reform Judaism has supported gay even to the point of commitment ceremonies but the Orthodox branch of Judaism has lagged far behind. "Speaking as a liberal and as a Jew, I'm afraid that he would have sat shiva [to receive condolences from others] had dyke [Mary] Cheney been his daughter," said Sherrill.

"He voted for DOMA, he's been bad on the military, he's never been good on privacy, he is no civil libertarian, he is somebody who makes Gore look liberal. He's our Dick Cheney," said Sherrill. "His record is as unsupportive of gay rights as any Northeastern Democrat. It in many ways confirms my worst fears about Gore."

Sherrill attributes Lieberman's high rating from the Human Rights Campaign to "the absence of any hard votes on our rights" over the last few years. A gay civil rights bill has been watered down to an employment-only strategy, and "in the interest of protecting the potential for a Democratic majority" even that has been forsaken for a focus on hate crimes legislation.

"We let everyone off the hook by doing that," he said. "Political-

ly I think it is one of the dumbest strategies that we could follow."

Other voices

San Francisco's two gay Jewish supervisors, Mark Leno and Leslie Katz, praised Gore's selection of Lieberman.

"As a Jew, I'm pleased to see history being made," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "As a gay man, I'm glad to know Senator Lieberman is a lead sponsor on ENDA and a co-sponsor of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act."

Said Katz: "I'm very pleased by the selection. More than anything, I think it sends a message about Gore's commitment to diversity. It was a gutsy move, picking someone who is Jewish."

Other gay groups have viewed Lieberman with favorable but tempered support. "Senator Lieberman is a solid choice to serve as Al Gore's running mate," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director. His voting history "reflects a growing understanding of our issues."

Lieberman's understanding of the separation of the church and state has allowed him to support most of HRC's legislative agenda even while defending the religious who have "sincerely held morally based views" opposed to homosexuality.

"Senator Lieberman's record is one that bears studying and watching," said Elizabeth Toledo, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "He has a generally good record on issues important to the LGBT community. At the same time, Lieberman, like Clinton and like Gore, has not always proven to be a friend of the progressive community when we needed him."

"This is not a man who takes political chances to help the powerless and the dispossessed," said Sherrill. "I fear that ultimately this is a choice that tells you who Gore is." ▼

Pot hearing

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discussions is the true issue, and both sides called for a summary judgment last week since neither disagree about the basic facts of the case.

Plaintiff Conant is a longtime Bay Area HIV/AIDS specialist. He is joined in his suit by Dr. Debrah Tripathy, an oncologist specializing in breast cancer at the University of California at San Francisco Mount Zion Breast Care Center; Dr. Howard D. Maccabee,

medical director of the Radiation Oncology Center in Walnut Creek; Dr. Stephen Follansbee, chief of staff at Davies Medical Center in San Francisco and medical director of the Institute for HIV Treatment and Research at Davies Hospital; Dr. Arnold Leff, a specialist in AIDS and geriatric medicine; and Dr. Neil Flynn, physician at the AIDS and Related Disorders Clinic at the University of California, Davis. Additionally, there are five patient plaintiffs who credit medical marijuana for their survival of serious illnesses after conventional drug therapies

failed.

In addition to McCaffrey, defendants include Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala and Attorney General Janet Reno.

The case has been renewed on the heels of a recent federal court victory for California pot clubs whereby a United States judge ruled that potential harm to patients should have been considered before dispensaries were targeted for closure. Pot activists around the state are hoping that the judge in this case will follow that example. ▼

Philly arrestees allege prison abuse

by Liz Highleyman

An estimated 400 activists were arrested last week during demonstrations and direct actions surrounding the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia. In an unprecedented move, a judge initially set misdemeanor bail amounts as high as \$1 million for activists he characterized as "ringleaders" of the protests.

John Sellers of the Berkeley-based Ruckus Society, which runs "training camps" for activists, was slapped with \$1 million bail and charged with disorderly conduct, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. Police said they identified Sellers taking part in a protest during the convention. Philadelphia Assistant District Attorney Cindy Martelli said that Sellers "facilitates the more radical elements to accomplish their objective of violence and mayhem."

On Monday, August 7, Sellers' bail was reduced to \$100,000.

Paul Davis, Terrence McGuckin, and Kate Sorenson, all of ACT UP/Philadelphia, also were given excessively high bail amounts. Davis, who was released last Friday, was arrested while walking on the street talking on a cell phone; police have identified Nextel phones as a communication tool popular with organizers.

McGuckin, a Temple University student, had his bail set at \$500,000, which a judge refused to reduce. As of Tuesday, Sorenson was being held in quarantine with a \$1 million bail; she is charged with 10 felony counts, including conspiracy, and "causing a catastrophe in connection with criminal mischief." AIDS activists from other areas, including New York and Tennessee, were also among those arrested.

According to Lawrence Krasner, a defense attorney representing several of the jailed activists, the high bails were "unconscionable, ridiculous ... and completely off the map from the norm. ... This is a desperate effort to systematically punish these people without a trial, to lock them up, to keep them off the streets."

Reports of total numbers arrested during the week of the GOP convention – known to organizers as R2K – range from just under 300 (according to police) to nearly 500 (according to the R2K legal team). Many of the arrests took place on August 1, a day devoted to protests against the criminal justice system, which included street blockades and lock-downs, in which activists locked themselves together to make themselves more difficult to remove. Several altercations with police were reported, and one officer was said to have been seriously injured.

Another 70 people were arrested Tuesday when police raided a warehouse studio that activists were using to make puppets and banners; among those arrested and jailed was the studio's owner, a member of the Radical Faeries. Police claimed to be concerned that dangerous items were being stored at the warehouse; after finding none, they allowed the building to reopen after confiscating and disposing of the art and construction supplies.

Many arrestees have complained of inhumane treatment and abuse following arrest and while in jail. According to several reports quoted in a variety of press and e-mail accounts, ac-

tivists were held for many hours on unventilated buses, beaten, bound with excessively tight handcuffs, subjected to verbal abuse, placed in overcrowded cells, and denied adequate food and water. According to jailed

plastic handcuffs."

Several of those arrested claimed that police prevented them from making phone calls or contacting the R2K legal team. There were also reports that people with HIV, epilepsy, or

"I saw a man handcuffed to his cell door in a crucifixion position ... I heard women screaming and being dragged along the floor ... I saw a woman screaming in pain as a police officer said, 'You want more? You want more?'"

eyewitness Davis, "I saw a man handcuffed to his cell door in a crucifixion position ... I heard women screaming and being dragged along the floor ... I saw a woman screaming in pain as a police officer said, 'You want more? You want more? ... I saw several people hog-tied with

asthma, diabetes, and psychiatric conditions were denied regular access to their medications. Representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union were allowed to observe conditions in the jail and were unable to substantiate any claims of violations.

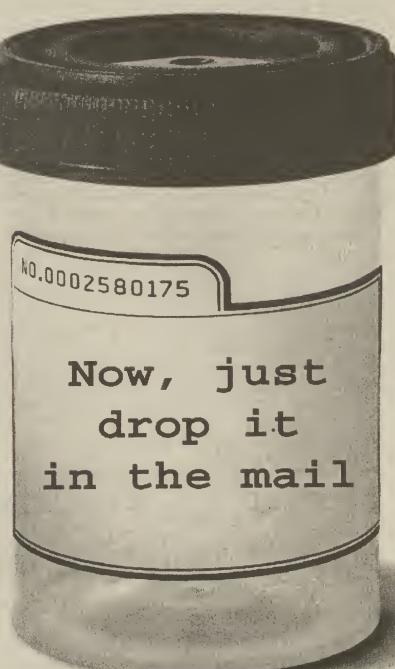
By last weekend, many arrestees had been released on their own recognizance, but a large number of others were practicing "jail solidarity," refusing to give their names or otherwise cooperate with authorities. On Monday, Common Pleas Court Judge Lisa Richette reduced the bail for some protesters, but would not grant hearings to so-called Jane and John Does. "If they'll have to sit in jail," said Richette. As of Tuesday, estimates of those still being held ranged from 150 to 300, many of whom were participating in a hunger strike.

A number of the activist leaders who participated in the R2K protests were also involved with the World Trade Organization actions in Seattle last fall and the International Monetary Fund/World Bank protests in Washington, D.C., in April; some are also planning to take part in actions surrounding the Democratic National Convention (DNC) this week in Los Angeles. Au-

thorities allege that the organizers have encouraged or participated in violence and property damage. According to Philadelphia Police Commissioner John Timoney, the activists are part of a "cadre of criminal conspirators who are about the business of planning conspiracies to go in and cause mayhem, property damage, and violence in major cities in America." The activists maintain, however, that they are nonviolent and are exercising their constitutional right to free expression. ▼

Donations to the R2K legal defense fund can be sent to the Philadelphia Direct Action Group (P-DAG), P.O. Box 40683, Philadelphia, PA 19107-0683; checks should be made out to ISMCH. For ongoing news about the R2K and upcoming D2K actions, see www.indymedia.org.

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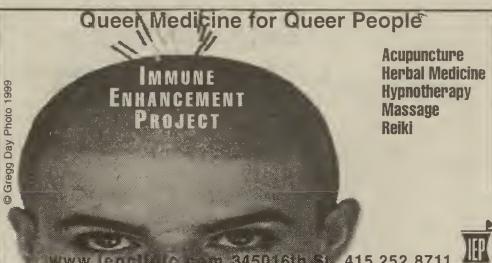
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What a difference a D.A. makes

by Michael Lauro and Jeff Getty, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

It's hard to imagine San Francisco's AIDS community doing anything but shaking its collective head in disbelief this week as news of initial \$1 million bail hearings for misdemeanor arrests at the four-day Republican convention reached us.

Reports of lone AIDS activists being arrested while walking the streets of Philadelphia with nothing but a cell phone in hand or police sweeps of notorious denizens of criminal activity – in this case an art space where individuals sat assembling papier-mâché props for some colorful street theater action – lend credence to activist claims that police specifically targeted the most visible and historically vocal of activist groups. Certainly the Philadelphia Police Department has a history for which civil libertarians will not be giving any awards. Just as important, targeted groups like ACT UP/Philadelphia have a long history of nonviolence which would support activist claims that the Philadelphia police and District Attorney's office simply went after the most likely suspects absent the genuine article.

Contrast this with San Francisco's own cheerless response in dealing with the violence done over a protracted period by individuals using the name ACT UP/San Francisco. For over six years, the group's trademark tactics have resulted in a long pattern of harassment, disruptions, trespassing, stalking, significant private property damage, physical injury, intimidation, grotesque acts of battery including spitting and throwing cat feces, and potential First Amendment civil rights violations upon persons with AIDS.

Community United Against Violence has recorded over a dozen complaints of harassment and intimidation by members of ACT UP/SF dating back to 1997. Individuals left us of reporting death threats left on their telephone answering machines to the San Francisco Police Department. AIDS Benefit Counselors has had to cancel community forums, as the agency is unable to afford the

extra cost of security guards to protect forum participants. All this mayhem while ACT UP/SF continues to gross over \$1.5 million each year selling pot without complying with the city's business code.

Most recently, after being refused admittance to an AIDS treatment forum sponsored by Survive AIDS (formerly ACT UP/Golden Gate) and Project Inform, ACT UP/SF struck again. A Project Inform employee was brutalized, attendees were spat upon and had projectiles hurled at them in another less than meaningful attempt to "get their message out." Over 30 restraining orders were privately obtained on behalf of employees of an AIDS service organization with several dozen more currently under consideration after great time and expense by Project Inform and other groups.

The take-home message from Philadelphia is simple: if the police want to stop any group's activities, legal or not, they can do it. There is no will to end our own long saga of illegal and damaging anti-PWA violence in San Francisco, beginning with the District Attorney's office and running all the way to the oddly-silent-for-once-in-his-life mayor. Certainly the mayor thought justice was done when his pie-tossing friends got six months in jail after they soiled his suit. Compare that to the repeated refusal to file charges or dismissing all charges attitude when members of ACT UP/SF are at issue. This seems to have a lot more to do with who the victims of violence are than anything else. The price of the lives of people with AIDS always seems to be had at a bargain rate.

Sadly, as news breaks indicating an increase in the local HIV infection rate, ACT UP/SF announces that it's all a lie (and of course HIV does not cause AIDS anyhow), demands a public hearing, writes more distorted press releases, and generally sidetracks already pathetic HIV prevention measures. Many of us who have been asked to attend a City Hall hearing on HIV infection rates

would like to go but fear for our safety after receiving death threats and death wishes. One city official, who compared ACT UP/SF to Nazi Brownshirts, quietly told us that perhaps the best thing is to let them commit felonies with hopefully, lots of witnesses. But how will that have any effect when the D.A.'s office usually drops the charges or refuses to prosecute? Are we to stand around at City Hall hoping that they will bash or strike some PWA so that maybe the D.A. will catch it on video tape? Which PWAs should be allowed to be attacked, we wonder?

The stress this violent group has placed on PWAs working as volunteers at such places as Survive AIDS, Project Inform, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and AIDS Benefits Counselors is unforgivable. PWAs need a way to fight, a will to live, a way to help themselves and others – not to be harassed, threatened, and bashed by a group of drug-peddling gangsters, a mafia-like group, who when not issuing threats and attacking people, uses drug profits to pay lawyers to intimidate any person or writer who dares to speak out.

Finally, some might say that we are trying to have it both ways – condemning the overreaction by the law enforcement officials in Philadelphia while criticizing law enforcement officials here for not doing enough. They would be wrong. It's more like this: when people with AIDS protest against Republicans, arrest them on felony charges and force \$1 million bail. But when PWAs are being threatened and attacked, let the perpetrators go with a slap on the wrist, and let this go on for years.

What we ask is that the SFPD, the district attorney, and the mayor's office simply get off their collective ass and start doing their job – protecting the public from real harm. ▼

Survive AIDS meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 592 Castro Street, at 7:45 p.m.

ACT UP/San Francisco court hearing finished, judge to issue decision

by Katie Szymanski

Gay drama took on a whole new meaning over the past few months, as the HIV/AIDS organization Project Inform fought its legal battle in San Francisco Superior Court to keep ACT UP/San Francisco members away from its staff and public gatherings. The civil hearing against ACT UP/SF brimmed with controversy, and the testimony from Project Inform and ACT UP/SF witnesses differed so greatly that even episodes of *Law and Order* seemed tame and easy to predict by comparison.

But alas, like all good shows, the courtroom saga has now come

to an end. Attorneys for both sides are expected to submit written closing arguments this week to summarize their clients' positions, and a decision is expected within 30 days as to whether Project Inform should receive permanent restraining orders against several ACT UP/SF members.

The proceedings stemmed from the now-infamous April 17 incident whereby ACT UP/SF members stormed a public forum hosted by Project Inform and Survive AIDS about strategic treatment interruption. The group was upset that the organizations that once advocated total adherence to HIV medications were acknowledging the potential benefits of structured drug holidays. ACT UP/SF has long maintained that

HIV treatment is murderous poison, and members on that fateful night allegedly threw hard pills, hit participants with cardboard signs, and shoved Project Inform's Judy Leahy, causing her to suffer a knee injury.

Both sides were less than convincing in court; Project Inform played the part of the defenseless victim while ACT UP/SF members described their tactics as "performance art," and also rejected the idea that they threw any pills, although they did admit sending them flying through the air.

At this point it is up to San Francisco Superior Court Judge Ina Levin Gyemant to decide between two very different versions of what happened four months ago. ▼

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Michael H. McGinnis
August 24, 1960 — July 29, 2000



An Angel of a man passed peacefully into Paradise in the early morning of July 29 at home in bed surrounded by the love of his Life Partner of nine years, Ray Dearman, our beloved Garfield, the Saints and Angels.

Born in Rawlins, Wyoming to Kenneth and Elizabeth Jordan McGinnis, grandson and great grandson of early pioneers, he was very proud of his Wyoming roots. He graduated from Rawlins H.S. in 1979 as the Most Out-

standing Achiever Academic and won several scholarships. He graduated from Jesuit/Madames du Sacred Heart University San Diego as cum laude with a B.A. in International Relations and History, he worked in San Diego at the 5 Diamond Westgate Plaza Hotel.

He moved to Oakland in 1987 where he worked for his dear friend Karen Starr at Starbrick Assoc. as Director of Property. He changed course when he discovered his illness, choosing to spend time traveling. He loved good food and the mountains, working on his genealogy, reading and collecting English antiques. I know he was with the Queen Mom on her 100th birthday. He was very proud to say he had traced his Irish roots back to the mid-1700s.

Michael is survived by his life partner Ray Dearman, mother Betty Jordan McGinnis, brother Ken, nephew Scott, niece Beth and many cousins and loving friends.

Michael touched many people in his life who will always remember his beautiful smile and laugh. When his ashes are buried his tombstone will read: "Angels Never Die," and he was truly my Angel. Contributions can be made in his memory to Project Inform.

David Bourriague



David's thoughts:

"July 29, 2000... Can you believe the date? I would have never thought I would live this long. After all, my commander told me I'd be dead in 6 months from what they called then the 'HTLV3,' the virus that causes AIDS. Oh well, just like today, all they had back then was 'fear'

and 'hysteria.'

"Maybe I was too stupid to be afraid or hysterical. So, off I went on my AIDS journey. 1979?

"There isn't a day in my life that I regret. I am grateful to this virus for what and who it has brought into my life.

"All of my friends and acquaintances are jewels in my life's crown. Thank you for all you all have given me.

"I hope that everyone remembers me by giving of yourselves to an AIDS organization for people who need all of you."

On August 3, a beautiful and quiet Thursday evening, our friend, David Bourriague, passed away, his spirit melting into the nothingness.

David lived with HIV/AIDS for over 20 years, spending much of that time in both Seattle and San Francisco. He lived his life with incredible courage and grace and touched many lives along the way. His love, kindness and compassion will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a simple man with a big heart and we have all been blessed to have been a part of his life.

David passed from this life a practicing Buddhist. He studied under Kyozan Josho Roshi, Abbot of Mt. Baldy Zen Center, and was guided by Roshi's interpreter, Giko san.

David is preceded in death by his partner, Robert and his best friend, Patrick. He is survived by his best friend and caregiver, David, his godson, Logan, his nephew, Jeff, along with Ryan, Noah, Ricky, Corie, Michael, Michael, Andrew, and Eric, among many other good friends.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, August 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at David's apartment. Call 565-0209 for directions. David requested that, instead of flowers, donations be made to the Mt. Baldy Zen Center, P.O. Box 429, Mt. Baldy, CA 91759, or to the SF AIDS Hotline, 863-2437.



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Our Man Friday

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haven't been spotted together since her dad was tapped for the vice slot. Another disgruntled reporter, having been denied access to Mary Cheney, said of her and her significant other: "Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche they're not."

And finally, GOP delegates attending another of those wild parties held in Philly last week couldn't believe their eyes when they saw Representative **Mary Bono** (R-Palm Springs) dancing her heart out with a much younger male beauty to the band's rendition of her late husband **Sonny**'s hit song, "I Got You Babe."

Politics and people

When **Karla Drenner** (D) takes her seat in January in the Georgia state House of Representatives she will become the first openly gay or lesbian state legislator in the Deep South (Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Georgia); the first openly gay legislator in the entire South is **Glen Maxey** (D) who has represented Austin in the Texas Legislature since 1991.

One of the major fears of the Bush campaign is that Minnesota Governor **Jesse Ventura**, still very popular in that state, who has declared he won't endorse the

presidential contest, will eventually find an excuse to endorse Al Gore for president before the November election and throw that crucial state to the Democrats.

This week we have **Pat Buchanan**, who will likely be telling the Reform Party Convention in Long Beach that "there is a religious war going on for the soul of America, a cultural war, critical to the kind of nation we will be..."

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Reform Party for the presidential ballot they mailed me last week (it'll make a good souvenir), although I've been a registered Democrat for 30 years. Maybe Reform Secretary **Jim Mangia** is onto something when he accuses the Buchanan people of "fraud" in conducting their campaign.

The nine women of the U.S. Senate (six Democrats, three Republicans) are said to be good friends despite their obvious political differences and meet for dinner at least once a month.

Spotted at the GOP convention: San Francisco's chief of protocol **Charlotte Shultz**, who has more Democratic friends than any of us, sitting with former President **George Bush** and his wife, **Barbara**; **Nancy Reagan**; and her husband, former Secretary of State **George Shultz**; Charlotte seemed to be having the time of her life, standing and ap-

plauding at all the right moments.

Angela Alioto's friends are telling me that she's a "sure thing" to run for mayor next time; there aren't many more dedicated people around.

The **Recorder**, the city's legal newspaper, recently reported that former Sheriff/Supervisor/Assessor/Police Chief **Richard Hongisto**, who says he is considering another run for sure this year, has filed for bankruptcy and is being sued by former tenants for an alleged illegal eviction.

Ron Reagan – the dancer, that is – caused a bit of a ruckus when he arrived in Philadelphia last week and promptly proclaimed that George W. Bush is "simply unqualified for the job," adding that "He's probably the least qualified person ever to be nominated by a major party; yes, he was elected Texas governor and before that ran a baseball team and lost a lot of other people's money in the oil business. What is his qualification – that he's no longer an obnoxious drunk?" The younger Reagan, hitting it on all notes, went on to trash George W. by adding: "the defining moment for me was his **Karla Faye Tucker** smirk, joking about a woman he was putting to death. No adult would ever do that."

This week, here come the Democrats in Los Angeles with Al Gore and Joe Lieberman.

And how was your week? ▶

Youth shelter

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Market and Castro.

Applications for the advisory group are available on the DPH Web site at www.dph.state.ca.us, by clicking on Community Partnership\Advisory Groups\2500 Market Advisory Committee, or by calling (415) 554-2679. The application deadline is next Friday, August 18 at 5 p.m. Committee meetings are to be publicized on the DPH Web site, and will be open to the public, according to DPH.

MUMC President Patrick Batt, who owns a small business

a block away from the facility, said that he is supportive of the project "with reservations."

"I expect to apply to be a MUMC representative" on the DPH advisory committee, Batt said, adding that other MUMC members also may apply. He said that DPH and the Ark of Refuge "still have to deal with the magnet effect ... we still have a huge effect with people calling complaining about problems on that block [Collingwood between 18th and 19th streets]."

Batt said he will take a wait-and-see approach before forming an opinion about the Ark of Refuge's ability to carry out the program while being sensitive to

the concerns of the surrounding residents and businesses.

The nonprofit group is not involved with a small six-bed shelter being run out MUMC on Eureka Street.

"I'm ambivalent about [Ark of Refuge] at this point, but they know how the neighborhood feels about the problems with the EVRC," Batt said.

Batt said he will be testifying about the application for a conditional use permit for the project at the Planning Commission hearing, scheduled for Thursday, August 24 at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall, room 400. For more information about the hearing, call (415) 558-6422. ▶

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Tsunamania

SwimSF 2000 to raise funds for AIDS and breast cancer

by Jim Provenzano

t's Tsunami time!

The Bay Area's lesbian/gay masters swimming team is holding its annual swim meet just down the Peninsula, so swim if you must.

With traffic the way it is, you might have to.

This year, Team Tsunami will direct proceeds from the upcoming SwimSF 2000 meet to Project Open Hand and the Breast Cancer Fund. More than 200 swimmers from across the country are expected to attend the annual event.

SwimSF 2000 will take place this Saturday, August 12, at the Burlingame Aquatic Center in Burlingame, California. In addition to a 13-event swimming competition, SwimSF 2000 will include a registration reception, hosted dinners for visiting swimmers, and a gala party. Haul out the designer Speedos. This event is all wet, in a good way.

Swim SF 2000 is the latest of the Tsunami's efforts to combine swimming with community-focused fundraising. In 1998, in the wake of the Matthew Shepard murder, the team raised more than \$15,000 in a swim-a-thon to benefit groups working to combat hate violence. Fees and sponsorships for last year's inaugural SwimSF generated more than \$4,000 for Project Open Hand.

"We're going to exceed \$8,500 in sponsorship contributions, to be divided between the Breast

Cancer Fund and Project Open Hand," said swimmer and Tsunami member Tod Hill, a hardworking organizer of the event. He's been with Tsunami for over 10 years, coached the team for seven of those years, and swam at Yale.

"Community businesses were very supportive of our initial effort last year, but this year we know we can do even better," said Brian Fitzgibbons, co-director of the meet. "We're very excited about adding support for the Breast Cancer Fund to this year's event."

The Tsunami have secured sponsorship contributions and donations from local businesses and individuals including Palm Inc., which is donating a Palm Pilot as a door prize, the law firm of Heller Ehrman, the Sports Basement, Uncle Bert's Place, Zephyr Realty, Skyy Vodka, and Sweet Inspiration.

Even if you're not a swimmer, you can help out. "We invite all swimming fans to come out to SwimSF 2000 and be a volunteer timer," said Fitzgibbons. Assistance is needed in many areas, but not in any shave-down events, according to organizers.

April in Paris

Tsunami members recently made quite a splash overseas at the International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics Championships in Paris, France in April. Nine of the 15 vis-

iting team members won individual or relay gold medals.

"The biggest difference is a lot of Europeans come out of the woodwork," said Hill, in comparing it to last year's IGLA event in Atlanta. "There's a very strong German group, including a guy who swam for the East German team. He kept beating me by five or six seconds, then going out to have a cigarette."

Top performances included an IGLA record-setting swim by Todd Oakes, who timed in at 53.8 for the 100-meter freestyle. A triple gold medal sweep of relays by the team of Fitzgibbons, Hill, Peter McAweeney, and Wayne Rogers took home even more hardware in the 400-meter medley, 200-meter medley and 400-meter freestyle relay.

The gold medal-winning performances by Casey Cheung, Rudy Guardon, Mark Harlow, and Stuart Towns also won accolades. Expect more swift swimming from this team and others this weekend.

A festive tradition for several years, the Pink Flamingo Relay, the drag/swim event which IGLAs call "Esther Williams on steroids," included the usual outrageously fab floating fun, with berets, tearaway pants, and a synchronized swimming routine to a jazzed up version of an Edith Piaf tune. Tsunami won third place in that



on the ball, as it were.

The league is populated with a diverse group of people, including those from various sexual orientations. Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

League dates for the regular season run from September 14 through November 16. Playoffs will be November 30 and December 7. All games are played on Thursdays at 6:45, 7:45, and 8:45 p.m. (except the championship night at 7 and 8:15 p.m.) at the Eureka Valley Rec Center on Collingwood at 18th Street (behind the Cala Foods).

Participation is \$50 a player before August 20 and it goes up to \$60 player after August 20, and the participation fee must accompany the form. Checks should be made out to Tony Jasinski.

Teams will be selected via a draft. No more than 56 players will be participating. Only individual players can apply, with six teams of nine players each. Each team plays all other teams twice. Every team will play the first week of playoffs, but only the top four teams qualify for the championship.

Questions? Interested? Call

"The biggest difference is a lot of Europeans come out of the woodwork. There's a very strong German group, including a guy who swam for the East German team. He kept beating me by five or six seconds, then going out to have a cigarette."

being, and community spirit. They provide a safe space to nurture your love of swimming. They work out at Hamilton Pool in San Francisco.

The team is open to everyone and offers coached workouts for swimmers of all levels from developmental to intermediate to championship caliber.

Directions to the swim meet: Take Highway 101 to Broadway. Head west. Take the second light after the freeway exit, make a left on Carolanne Avenue to Burlingame High School. The pool is behind the school.

For more information about SwimSF 2000, check out the Tsunami Web site at <http://www.sftsunami.org>. For my coverage of IGLA '99, visit <http://sportscomplex.org>.

Ball and change

It's almost Castro Fall Basketball League season, and one the most organized community sports groups is getting under way.

Unless you are a captain, you're not on the draft list until Tony Jasinski receives your league payment. Otherwise, you're on the "waiting list."

"This is going to be our longest season ever, as you'll play every team twice, but for the same price as last year," said Jasinski.

The 2000 Fall League commissioners are Daryle Morgan, Rich Brown, Anthony Philip, and Jasinski.

All players must submit registration forms and money by August 27. No players will be accepted into the league after 56 players have signed up. This is expected to be the last league until 2002, so get

Tony Jasinski at (415) 621-2710 and leave a message. Entry forms are available at Eureka Valley Recreation Center. Completed registrations can be left there or given directly to Jasinski. Online info is at www.gaybasketball.com.

Ringer

A very special thank you to Ed and Greg of FAB, plus all the grapplers who made the Rasslin' at the River dance party such a success. T-shirts, singlets, and a few nights at the Russian River Resort were raffled off, as well as a few pro items scrounged from Wal-Marts and K-marts, to raise funds for the Golden Gate Wrestling Club's trek to Sydney 2002.

What a thrill to play Vince McMahon (but without all the rampant corruption) amid teammates who showed off freestyle, pro, and other forms of wrestling to an amused and generous crowd, which got even more generous once we started the sweaty singlet auction.

GGWC raised over \$1,200 for the trek to Gay Games VI. That's almost one plane ticket! You can be sure there'll be more events like this in the future, or else we'll all have to be stowaways on a freighter.

Now maybe if we can get a few of those gay pro wrestlers to come out, they might make an appearance next time. ▼

To find out how to help the grapplers get down under, visit <http://www.gwgc.org>.

To promote your next GLBT sports event or fundraiser, e-mail JimProv@excite.com.

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HEALTH RESOURCES

COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/SF

Discussion groups first and third Sundays of every month from 3-5pm. Contact: 864-6648.

AIDS Emergency Fund

Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project

Concerned about HIV, dating, sex, intimacy? Free individual and group counseling & support services for HIV-negative, HIV-positive, and unstaged gay and bisexual men. For info, call 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowring Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay

HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 1755 Broadway, 2nd floor, Oakland. (510) 663-1581.

AIDS Support Group

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group provides practical, emotional, and, where desired, spiritual support for persons living with AIDS without regard to religious preference, age, race, gender, sexual preference, or disability. Treatment provided. For info or to volunteer, call (415) 663-1581.

AIDS Treatment Education Network

Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project

"We Are Family," on-going support group for gay men. Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Alzheimer's Association

Free SF support groups: 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2:30pm, UCSF Mt. Zion Center on Aging, 3600 Geary Blvd. (Also, groups in Spanish, Chinese.) Info: 800-660-1933.

Asians & Leather

Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info: c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail: icho@15@aol.com

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV

Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Bereavement Groups

For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4400.

Breast Cancer Action

Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Buddhist AIDS Project

Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-4743.

Cancer Support Group

Based in San Francisco and offers a caregivers support group, a grief group, and counseling for cancer patients, their friends, and families. For info, call Brian at 422-2137.

Charitable Charities

Residential and direct HIV services include Guerrero House, Peter Claver Community, more. B14 Mission. 281-1200.

Center for Special Problems

Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group, co-ed drop-in and psycho-educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for info: 292-1500.

CHANGES Project

(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project: ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV+ men gay: 597-9169.

Community United Against Violence

Provides services to LGBT victims of domestic violence and hate crimes. Also needs volunteer counselors on 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500. For emergency 24-hour crisis line, call 333-HELP.

Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color. Free. Call 336-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services

An all-day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every: Wed., 8pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market; Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Deaf AIDS Center

At UCSC, San Jose Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-1600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics

Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dimensions

Comprehensive health, mental health, and substance abuse services for LGBTQQ youth ages 12-25 in a safe, supportive environment. Sliding scale based on income. No one is turned away. Every Thursday from 5 to 8pm at 3850 17th Street, at Pond, in the Castro. Drop-in or by aptn. Call 487-7589.

Dolores Street Comm. Services

Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

East Bay HIV/AIDS 12 Step Support Group

Ongoing. Open to all with HIV who have experience with any 12 step program. Mon. eves., 6:15pm. Info: Paul (510) 465-4311.

FABRIC

A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning Asian and Pacific Islanders young and under 35. Meets every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 St. 575-3939, x318/ x504.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS

Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

G40+ Club

A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project

Free, confidential OraSure HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12:30-4:30pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 108. Call 567-2273.

Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic

Confidential, free, client-centered HIV testing, provided conveniently in the evening at an accessible location. Test results are not kept on file. 487-5632

Health Support Services

For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Duran Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline

Free support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network

Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV Employment Rights Project

Legal advice and counseling for people with HIV about their rights in the workplace. Call 593-0055 in the Bay Area and (888) 864-0628 toll-free. Call 567-1957.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program

Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, free. Safe injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight. Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf

Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 562-7000 x199. 1853 Market St.

HIVcare

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments. Free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups

Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Group

Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1-2:30pm. Free to SF residents. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1534.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group

Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group

Free, every Tues., 7pm. CSC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Sitting Group

Meets monthly for those with HIV, caregivers, friends. Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10:30am (beginners: 10:20am). Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. Info: 863-2507.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companion

Provides classes on how to care for a loved one living with AIDS or cancer. For next class sessions, info., call 824-3269.

Immune Enhancement Project

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program

(LYFE) Peer support and mentoring programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth. 565-7681.

Lesbians with Cancer

12 week psycho-social support group at the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market. Classes are offered on a sliding scale basis. Call 565-7672 x370 to register.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center

Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

Maitri Residential Care

For people disabled by HIV requiring 24-hour medical care. For info or to volunteer, call 558-3000.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics

STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality

Needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 552-0524.

Medical Cannabis Delivery System

Serves homebound and ambulatory patients in SF and the East Bay. Fax, 255-7489. 2261 Market, #478, SF 94114. 436-9648.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault

Operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Men's Circle

Despite the painful and distressing events in your past, you can move beyond these experiences and learn to reconnect with others and with living fully and freely again. Come and join other gay/bi men on this journey to freedom. Full Circle Community Center. Low fees/free initial intake. 255-0100.

Molested Boys

"Wounded Men: Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audiocassette. Seek guidance, 552-4270.

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS support group

Seeking volunteers to provide in-home practical and emotional support to PWAs. For information and application, call 863-1581.

Movement and Voice

Group for HIV+ Men, no experience necessary. Monday nights, 7pm. Call Paul, (510) 763-5900.

MWM

A rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Wed. nights, 6:30pm. AIDS Project, 785 Market, Suite 420. 227-0946.

National Association of People With AIDS

AIDS Tax

Fax-on-demand system which provides free and up-to-date information on HIV funding, grants, insurance, benefits, legal issues and more. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call NAPWA Fax: (202) 789-2222.

National American AIDS Project

Advocacy and advocacy for Native American/Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

National Center for AIDS Research

Provides information on HIV/AIDS and other life issues for gay, les, bi and trans Latinos/as. 864-7278.

Project ContraSIDA Pro Vida

Counselors and workshops on HIV and other life issues for gay, les, bi and trans Latinos/as. 864-7278.

PWA Long-Term Survivors

Support group for men; small, friendly, proactive. Call Carol, 584-1708.

Project HOPE

Offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Open Hand

Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Prostate Cancer Resource

Provides the latest information on prevention, referrals, free P.S.A. screening test for low income men in the community. Call 1-888-983-7833 or e-mail: [pcr@pcr.org](http://www.pcr.org).

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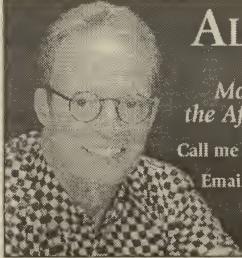
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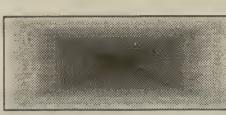


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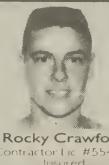
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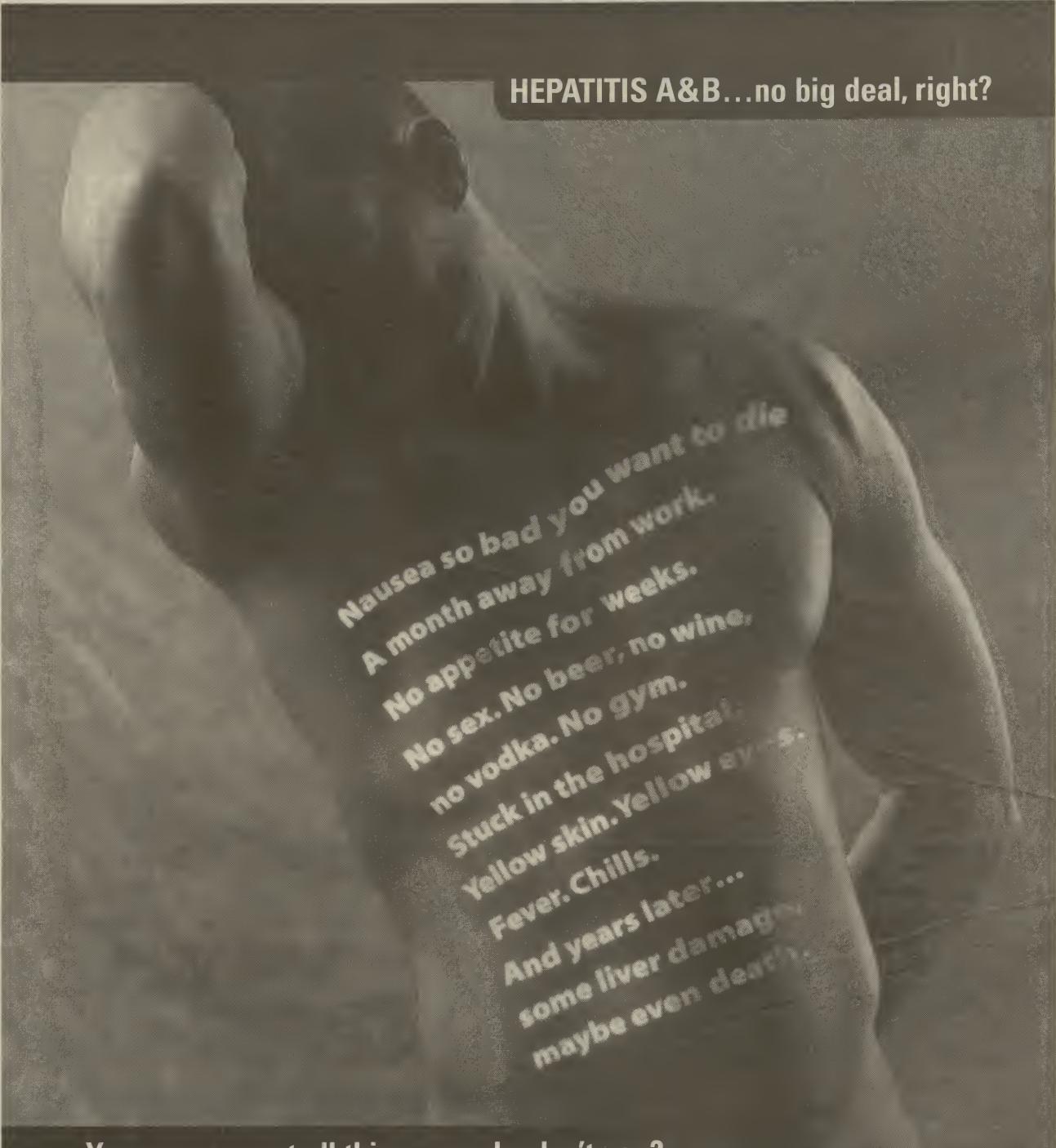
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The fact is, hepatitis *is* a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

PROTECT YOURSELF! See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at www.glma.org/hepatitis

This program is supported by a grant from SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals.

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GLMA
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Floor plans of the universe

'Mandala: The Architecture of Enlightenment' at Berkeley Art Museum.

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Lancaster leaps

Daring young men on the flying 'Trapeze.'

page 33

Greek boxer/hustlers

A slice of Athens life: 'From the Edge of the City.'

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 30 • No. 32 • 10 August 2000



Director John Waters and star Melanie Griffith on the set of *Cecil B. DeMented*.

Abbot Geller

The sonnet bites back

'Bosie' author Douglas Murray defends Lord Alfred Douglas

by Mark Mardon

As popular imagination has it, Lord Alfred Douglas, aka Bosie, was a faggy, foppish British poet at the turn of the 20th century who suffered — and largely brought upon himself — a disastrous and highly public fling with literary giant and big queen Oscar Wilde. Bosie came to regret having been a flaming homosexual at a time of harsh Victorian prudery and persecution, and did a dramatic about-face after Wilde's death, turning Catholic, marrying a woman and fathering a son, denying any unwholesome dalliances with Wilde, and zealously denouncing and/or litigating against anyone associated with Wilde or Wildean vices.

For this betrayal of his kind, other practicing homosexuals never forgave him. Though he enjoyed a modicum of fame during his life, he remained an odd duck in the literary world, a sonnet composer who never adapted his formalist style to the loosening poetics of the era. Bosie left but a minor literary legacy, his personal star forever attached to and outshone by Wilde's supernova.

To British biographer Douglas Murray, Lord Alfred has been pissed on too much by an ignorant public. The social/political upheaval surrounding Bosie's life all but guaranteed that neither Bosie's early, defiantly gay poetry nor his mature, Catholic

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Marc Geller

When I meet John Waters in his room at San Francisco's Triton Hotel, I realize he is wearing makeup. It's good makeup, a high quality foundation and his trademark black pencil mustache. I wonder if the 54-year-old Waters just came from a television interview or if he always turns himself out this way. Then I remember it's John Waters we're talking about. Who cares if he wears makeup — on his penis, for that matter?

Waters, on tour promoting *Cecil B. DeMented*, his most recent film financed by Canal + of France, is just as I expected: charming, unflappable, funny, and exceedingly comfortable with himself and his place in the world. But just to test him, I try to throw him off with my opening question.

Robert Julian: So John, did you ask Melanie Griffith why she let someone inflate her lips to the point of being grotesque?

John Waters: Certainly not, but I think she looks great in this film. She's a good comedienne and a good sport.

What do you do to maintain your own personal level of tackiness?

I don't think I have a personal level of tackiness, although I have nothing against that. I think I have a level of filth dignity at my age.

Explain the concept of "filth dignity" for me.

Filth dignity requires not thinking your own generation did it better, and you must have young fans — that's the only crossover audience I'm interested in. Eventually if you get older and you keep working, your generation stops going out. So it's very important to know what young people are doing. I have youth spies — I give them free drinks in bars. I still go out, you have to go out, or otherwise what's your material going to be? A "filth elder" reflects a certain confidence I've acquired, not maturing or growing older, but handling your age with some kind of dignity.

Do you ever feel like the Farrelly brothers (*There's Something About Mary*) have stolen your act?

No, they haven't stolen my act. It's a much broader act, it's a very different act. Maybe they never saw my movies. I like them, but nobody thinks someone shot a load in Cameron Diaz's hair, they know Divine ate dog shit.

How do you shock people anymore?

I don't try, that's not why I make movies. I'm not worried about shocking people, I'm worried about making them laugh, that's hard. Shocking is easy. I never

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by Roberto Friedman
and the Star Pluckers

When the B.A.R.'s glamorous art director/rock star Adrian Roberts heard about the *Multiple Sensations* opening at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts last Friday night, the invitation to which instructed to arrive "dressed like a superstar," he quipped, "You mean, just come like myself?"

Yes, starlet darling, come as you are. And by the way, why are so many design directors of alternative weeklies in this town also burgeoning rock stars? Could someone please look into this and get back to us?

At YBC, Out There wanted to ask everyone we met, "Aren't you famous yet?" a line we lifted from Cindy Crawford on the cover of the *Utne Reader*. Celebrity culture was only one facet of many in the



Out There

show of "series, collections, obsessions," but let's stick with it. Photographer Gary Lee Boas' celeb-stalking Instamatics were the object of considerable fascination, and of course YBC exec director John Killacky was thrilled by the portrait of his eternal muse Cher. The wall of Boas' autographed pics was full of alarming juxtapositions, like the one of a pre-stroke Gerald Ford right up against a signed Peter Berlin crotch shot.

Boas assured Out There that, though the show was culled from his archives up to 1980, he is still actively pursuing his obsession and snapping his shots.

The sensations were indeed multiple in the Center's new offerings; we enjoyed especially *Bibliomancy*, *Wenyon & Gamble's* series of hologram portraits of books and card catalogs from the Boston Atheneum — antiquated technology squared; *Mark Dean Veca's* cartoon murals enlivening the Grand Lobby; and *Michael Light's* still compelling composite of images from the NASA archives, cleverly installed in an underutilized YBC space.

We plan to return to the show, curated by René de Guzman, during its run, when the Pierogi 2000 Flat Files are open to perusal. Understandably, the files, Brooklyn artist Joe Amrhein's collection of works on paper, were locked tight during the social whirl that is a YBC opening.

During which, it was great to see NYC artist Nayland Blake back in town and looking tough. When OT welcomed him back to this old cowtown, Blake quipped, "And I feel like I'm the cow!" But a famous cow.

'Paragraph' indent

San Francisco's Academy Award-winning directors Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman were in Los Angeles last week, where a newly restored and remixed 35mm print of Epstein's 1984 groundbreaking film *The Times of Harvey Milk* opened UCLA's Film and Television Archives' 10th Festival of Preservation.

It was a fitting honor, since the



Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein celebrating their Oscar win in 1990.

Rick Gerharter

film is quite simply the best gay documentary ever made. Look for a national re-release this fall, beginning with a premiere at the Film Forum in New York on September 15. Start stocking up on Kleenex right now, and plan on bringing your parents along with you for a good dose of quality gay propaganda.

LA was also the jumping-off point for a whirlwind PR tour for the dynamic gay duo, who are promoting their new film, *Paragraph 175*, a feature documentary built around the personal stories of homosexual men who experienced persecution under the Nazis. The film, which won this year's audience award for best doc at the Frameline festival, has its Canadian debut at the Toronto Film Festival next month, and then moves on to Hamburg, Barcelona, Madrid and Rio de Janeiro (with Epstein and Friedman in tow). *Paragraph 175*'s US theatrical release launches at NYC's Film Forum on September 13, and plays our own Castro Theatre starting September 15.

HBO will air the film in the spring of 2001.

Rumors abound that Epstein and Friedman are planning an imminent move to a desert community south of here called Los Angeles. Is it true? And if so, wouldn't that be something of a blow to the Bay Area queer film community? We're just asking.

Hall monitor

New York-based singer-songwriter Dave Hall gives his first San Francisco performance this Sunday, August 13, 8:30 p.m. at

the Hotel Utah, 500 4th St. Out There popped Hall's recent CD, *Places* (Giuseppe Joe), into our iMac. We liked the cover art, a road map of the Bay Area, as well as one of... just where is the Great Dismal Swamp?



Singer/songwriter Dave Hall

"In North Carolina. It's a dark, wooded swamp. It really is dismal," Hall said by phone. "It comes from a song about a road trip I took, one of those little journeys of self-discovery."

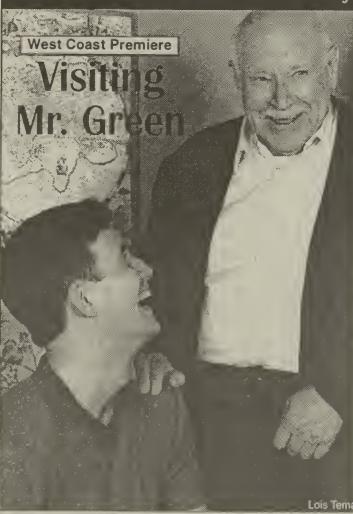
We grooved to cuts like "Come to Brooklyn" and "You Gotta Go Easy." But according to Hall, the sleeper hit on the album turned out to be "Biff 'n' Tony's Wedding," an upbeat tune based on the actual wedding of a couple of guys I know who now live on the West Coast."

The Hotel Utah date is part of a combined West Coast tour/vacation for Hall. "It's turned out to be more of a tour than a vacation!" he said.

Sharing the bill with Hall at the

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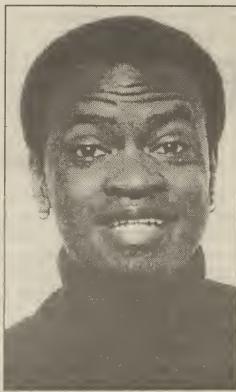
Learning from Billy Strayhorn

Cedric Brown in 7th annual AfroSolo Arts Festival

by Richard Dodds

Billy Strayhorn chose the shadows over the closet. The jazz composer and musician could have been a star, but instead he fed his talents into Duke Ellington's career. In the shadow of the mighty Ellington, Strayhorn could be himself — and make love to whom he wanted.

San Francisco performer Cedric Brown didn't know much about Strayhorn when he picked up *Lush Life*, David Hajdu's revealing biography of the composer of such signature Ellington songs as "Take the A Train," "Satin Doll," and "Lush Life."



Cedric Brown

"That was my first glimpse into who he was, and I just found it fascinating," Brown said. "I thought it would be interesting to write about a jazz singer who looks wistfully at the kind of life Strayhorn led as a gay black man who is out and accepted."

The result is *I Didn't Know Billy*, a 30-minute performance piece that is part of the seventh annual AfroSolo Arts Festival. Brown's monologue with music will be seen on August 24 and 27 at Theatre Artaud on a bill with two other solo performances.

The character that Brown portrays is a mid-level, middle-aged jazz singer who feels he must keep his personal life in the closet in order to maintain his career. "I think that's a dilemma many black artists have to face," Brown said. "Their talent may be accepted by folks who don't want to know anything about them personally."

Some of his character's experiences are drawn from Brown's own life, but more are based on experiences that he has seen other gay black artists go through. "You can become one-dimensional," Brown said, "if you always have to hide part of yourself."

Brown feels he came of age at a good time, in the early '90s, "when black gay men like Marlon Riggs, Pomo Afro Hornos, and Isaac Julien were putting out our stories. They were great role models."

The North Carolina native discovered himself during a summer at UC Berkeley. "When I got here," he said, "I just knew I needed to be in this kind of progressive political and social environment. After I moved here, I just blossomed in so many ways as an artist and a person."

While he eventually got a graduate degree in education at Stanford, music has been Brown's first love. He has tried to do it without compromise.

"I had a soul band a couple of years ago called Cleo Blue," he said, "and I might sing a song about a cute fellow who lived down the street. I didn't compromise pronouns. But this wasn't some kind of campy, weird gay group. It was just music."

Before that, he performed in a gay male a cappella group called From Top to Bottom, and most recently, he has been the vocalist for the 1150 Trio. With poet Marvin K. White, Brown also founded the Black Gay Letters and Arts Movement — also known as B-Glam — where *I Didn't Know Billy* made its debut in June. That's how AfroSolo artistic director Thomas Robert Simpson came across the piece.

"I appreciate Thomas giving me this chance to air this in front of a presumably predominantly

straight audience," Brown said, "because I think there are things they are going to learn and have to think about."

You Don't Know Billy is on a bill with Awele in *The Black Women Did It*, about the unsung women behind the Montgomery bus boycott, and Gadii Nkruma in *More Than I Can Handle*, the story of how violence affects three generations of a black family.

In a separate bill of one-person performances, on Aug. 23 and 25 at Theatre Artaud, Alison Wright performs *And You Can't Make Me*, a biographical study of Gladys Bentley, a cross-dressing lesbian blues icon of the Harlem Renaissance. This bill will also feature Opal Venus Reese in *Spirit*, subtitled "a promise of flesh transcended in three movements and two



shops, visual arts, and a musical program. For more information, call 771-2376 or visit www.afrosolo.org.

'Green' land

Eli Wallach worked for three years with first-time playwright Jeff Baron on *Visiting Mr. Green*, and not surprisingly, the critics said the title role fit the veteran actor like a glove. But a good role should transcend the actor who created it, a truism that will be put to the test by old-soldier critic and performer Dean Goodman at the New Conservatory Theatre Company.

Goodman, who began performing 63 years ago, plays a crusty retired dry cleaner who finds himself in an unwanted relationship with a gay yuppie working off a community-service sentence. In this "same time, next week" arrangement, both discover unexpected riches in the relation-

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Thomas Robert Simpson in *There Is No Hatred Here*

rests"; Chidiozie Nzerem in an untitled dance piece; and Thomas Robert Simpson in *There Is No Hatred Here*, which charts the evolution of a black militant.

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'Another American: Asking and Telling' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

Two cheers for hypocrisy," says the sociologist who came up with the government's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy." Gays in the military are like Peeping Toms, he explains. They don't cause any real harm unless you know they are there.

Charles Moskos fashioned "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to help an ambushed President Clinton save face after his plans to open the military to gays and lesbians collapsed. The ramifications of that ostensibly benign policy is the subject of Marc Wolf's *Another American: Asking and Telling*.

Moskos is one of 18 men and women Wolf depicts in this affecting one-man show, seen last year in New York and now at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. These 18 were culled from the nearly 200 whom the former soap opera actor interviewed over the course of three years. And while those 18 represent a cross section of opinions — and some of the arguments against gays in the military can give you pause — *Another American* is hardly a neutral document.

By the time a mother hauntingly recounts confronting the unrecognizable body of her serviceman soon after his fellow Americans had bludgeoned him to death, there can be no doubt where Wolf's sympathies lay. But even an unnerving story such as

this can be balanced as another of Wolf's subjects points out that an effective fighting force just can't tolerate these kind of internal distractions. Machismo is a delicate thing, it is convincingly explained.

Throughout the production, a tape recorder sits on the austere table that comprises the set, a reminder that what we are hearing is the real thing. Wolf is remarkable in his ability to preserve the idiosyncrasies of actual speech, and to an uncanny extent, he is able to inhabit the emotional substance behind the talk.

There is considerable humor amid the deadly serious issues that arise. "Most Marines won't kiss," says a gay Marine after he

describes a happy encounter with one who does. A lesbian military couple banter back and forth like characters from *Grease*. And one merry little queen recalls how he turned his camouflage fatigues into Daisy Dukes during his tour of Vietnam.

But in the end, this is serious business, and more than once Wolf had the audience gasping in shock and sorrow. *Another American* is entertainment for hearts and minds. ▼

Another American: Asking and Telling will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Aug. 20. Tickets are \$20 and \$25. Call 861-8972.



Carol Rosegg

Marc Wolf in *Another American: Asking and Telling*

Purgatory at the Paradise

Drag variations in 'Club Inferno'

by Richard Dodds

Not quite a musical but more than a concert, *Club Inferno* has been shoe-horned into the Paradise Lounge, where its hellzapoppin energies often get boxed up. This is a follow-up to *Cyberotica!*, another tranny extravaganza, which was able to spacially spread its appealing silliness at the Transmission Theatre.

The Transmission Theatre is gone, and so is a good deal of that silliness. The new show is little more than an excuse for a series of rock songs that display composer Peter Fogel's stylistic virtuosity. They may be sung by the drag variations of Cleopatra, Judy Garland, and Lucrezia Borgia, but humor takes a back seat to cranked up rock 'n' roll.

Club Inferno is ever so loosely based on Dante's *Inferno*. In this telling, Dante is a hard-rock diva who must work her way through the nine levels of Hell after an on-stage accident falls her in the middle of a concert. Each of the levels is labeled for a sin, and populated with a celebrity appropriate to the transgression.

Cleopatra is with the lustful, Cass Elliot with the gluttonous, Marie Antoinette with the avaricious, Aimee Semple McPherson with the fraudulents, and so on. But can you tell me why poor Judy Garland gets stuck with the betrayers?

Musical director Birdie Bob Watt plays Dante, but tethered by his keyboard duties, there isn't much interesting interplay in Kelly Kittell's book between his character and the big names she encounters on her journey through Hell. A bare-chested Fogel, the composer and lead guitarist, plays Dante's guide through Hell, and while he cuts an appealing figure in white tights and harness, neither his singing nor acting is particularly strong.

It falls to the "guest stars" to provide the main sparks. Leigh Crow gets some Mama Cass sounds going in the first act, and then rocks out as Lucrezia Borgia in the second. Trauma Flintstone, as the evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson, wakes things up with

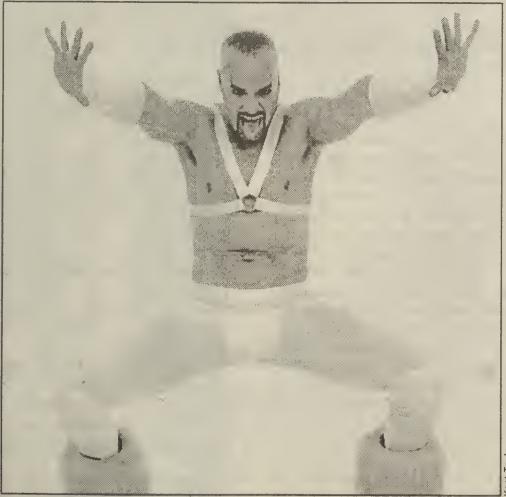
a pull-the-stops-out gospel number. Kennedy, as the eight-armed Durga of Hindu mythology, offers a mind-bending bit of psychedelia. Arturo Galster plays a charred Joan of Arc and delivers a sweet song reminiscent of the Mersey Beat.

Flintstone, Galster and Kennedy also play the head-trauma trio Jayne Mansfield, Isadora Duncan and Marie Antoinette, in a song that owes more than a few notes to "You Gotta Get a Gimmick" from *Gypsy*. While Connie Champagne doesn't sound much like Karen Carpenter in a duet with Mama Cass, her Judy Garland of course is a thing of local legend, and she is wisely saved till the end.

Also on hand are the shock-headed Xaron of Matthew Morin, and the ubiquitous, hard-working, and slightly creepy chorus boys of Jordan L'Moore, Kelly Kittell, and Cliff Curley.

If Dante is caught between two works, so is the show she inhabits. *Club Inferno* isn't loose enough to be fun as a high-energy camp travesty, but it isn't polished enough to make it as an uptown entertainment. ▼

Club Inferno will run at the Paradise Lounge on Sundays through Oct. 29. Tickets are \$15 at the door.



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Peter Fogel in *Club Inferno*

King Cole meets the Bard

'Kiss Me Kate' plays the Castro Theatre in 3-D

by Tavo Amador

When *Kiss Me Kate* opened on Broadway in 1948, critics and audiences went wild: Cole Porter was back after several dry years, with his best work ever. The gay composer and lyricist would have two more hit shows, *Can Can* and *Silk Stockings*, but *Kate* (now enjoying its first revival on the Great White Way) would be his masterpiece.

MGM snapped up the rights, but didn't film it until 1953, and did so in the new "Three-Dimensional" (3-D) format, the only musical to have that dubious distinction. That version is playing the Castro Theatre August 11-24.

With 3-D, Hollywood studios hoped to counter the damaging impact television was having on box office returns, and initially they succeeded. Audiences had to wear flimsy goggles, one lens green, the other red. The novelty drew viewers to theaters, for a while. But the effect of the new process seemed less realistic, rather than more, and interest quickly faded. *Kiss Me Kate* was a box office hit, and the gimmicky 3-D technique doesn't damage Porter's brilliant score or Hermes Pan's exceptional choreography. The studio, in typical fashion for the era, passed over the original Broadway leads — Alfred Drake, Patricia Morrison, and Lisa Kirk — in favor of Howard Keel,

Kathryn Grayson, and Ann Miller. Dorothy Kingsley wrote the screenplay from the Samuel and Bela Spewack script about a divorced couple starring in a musical version of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. George Sidney (*The Harvey Girls*; *Annie, Get Your Gun*; *Show Boat*) was selected as director, and he keeps things moving briskly. But his biggest contribution to the film may have been off-screen, because he rejected the studio's first choice for the role of Fred Graham/Petruchio, Laurence Olivier, insisting on Keel.

Sidney was right: the handsome Keel's rich baritone soars through the dazzling "So In Love," "Wunderbar," "I've Come to Wive it Wealthily in Padua," "Where Is The Life That Late I Led," and "We Open in Venice." His singing is as good as Broadway legend Drake. Equally impressive, he handles Shakespeare's text with ease and wit — he understands the lines and tosses them out gracefully. The long-legged leading man also fills out his Renaissance tights beautifully (Walter Plunkett designed the rich costumes) and has the right swagger for Petruchio.

Having successfully sung Irving Berlin's music in 1950's *Annie Get Your Gun* and Jerome Kern's music in 1951's *Show Boat*, Keel here gives the performance of his career, and seems to be enjoying himself immensely. So does the audience. He would continue in musicals for a few years (including



Ann Miller (far right) grabbed the juicy role of Lois Lane/Bianca in the MGM version of *Kiss Me Kate*.

ing *Kismet* (1955), once again replacing Drake), but when their popularity crashed, he starred in non-singing roles through the 1960s.

Too darn hot

Ann Miller grabbed the juicy role of Lois Lane/Bianca and knew exactly what to do with it. She does a dazzling "It's Too Darn Hot," a robust "Give Me Tom,

Dick, or Harry," and a rapid "Always True To You Darling In My Fashion." Partnered with the superb dancer Tommy Rall and in the ensembles with the young Bob Fosse and Bobby Van, her dancing is better than anything she ever did or would do again. Pan's choreography challenges her, and she stretches herself with first-rate results.

If Miller's singing isn't as subtle

as Kirk's original Bianca, it seems just right for the screen, and she, too, appears to be having fun. Within a few years, her film career would be over, but she later enjoyed enormous theatrical success, as one of former MGM player Angela Lansbury's replacements in *Mame* in the '60s, and in the '80s co-starring with another studio alumnus, Mickey Rooney, in

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Tony Curtis swings with Burt Lancaster in *Trapeze*.

High flyers

Wide-screen 'Trapeze'

by Tavo Amador

Trapeze (1956), which plays the *Wide, Wide Screen* series at the Castro Theatre on Thursday, August 10, is redolent with the tawdry atmosphere of circus life. Filmed on location in a seedy section of Paris and set in the actual Cirque D'Hiver, the movie captures the shabby glitter of one of the lower forms of show business with haunting veracity.

The opening scene is gripping, as we watch the stunningly buffed and handsome Mike Ribble (Burt Lancaster) attempting a "triple" flip on the trapeze. His timing is off by a second, and his partner cannot hold him. Ribble crashes to the ground.

Much later, a brash and very pretty Tino Orsini (Tony Curtis) arrives in Paris from Brooklyn,

searching for Ribble. Tino is a "flyer" and the son of a famous acrobat. He wants Ribble to teach him how to do the triple and become his catcher. Ribble, permanently injured from his fall — he now walks with a cane — refuses. But the optimistic, self-involved Tino persists and eventually prevails.

Tension builds when circus owner Boulogne (Thomas Gomez) insists that the voluptuous Lola (Gina Lollobrigida) join Ribble and Orsini's act. Ribble doesn't want her, but she easily manipulates the callow Tino, and he is soon infatuated with her. Ribble's anger mounts as he realizes his protégé's chances for doing a triple are being compromised. His fury grows even more as Lola's role in the act increases. It's only when Ribble's old flame,

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photo by Steven Underhill (c)

Athens flesh parade

'From the Edge of the City' at Lumiere

by Gary Morris

Following in the footsteps of those overrated paens to teenage male angst, *Hate and Trainspotting* (with a dash of *My Own Private Idaho*), Constantinos Giannaris's *From the Edge of the City* is an anti-travelogue to a little-known (at least to us Westerners) corner of Eastern Europe.



chaos: the sad lives of Athens' immigrant rent boys. These boys — and a few girls — are double outsiders. They're Pontoi (Russian immigrants of Greek descent from the Black Sea area), reviled by the locals but higher on the social scale than the Albanians, one of the many targets of their ire. They're also drug-swilling male whores and pimps, who, in the tribal manner common to teenagers everywhere, have replaced their boring biological families with their friends, all of whom are in various states of physical and psychic disrepair.

At the center of this grim group is Sasha (Stathis Papadopoulos), a hunky 17-year-old part-time construction worker and prostitute (since age 13) whose Greek-god looks and sculptured flesh — seen from every possible angle and every state of undress — should land him a prime spot in the next Abercrombie & Fitch campaign. Sasha's surrounded by all kinds of horrors common to neo-realist netherworlds: a father who slaps him around, a mother who weeps, junkie pals, and whores with black eyes. One of his best friends is

Giorgos (Dimitris Papadoulidis), an older pimp (maybe 20) who struts around in tight black T-shirts and thoughtfully lets Sasha have his prize whore, Natasha (Theodora Tzimou), so that he (Giorgos) can buy another, perhaps less bruised one.

In addition to Sasha and Giorgos, there's a group of back-up boys and girls whose lives are briefly limned. The best of this ragged lot is the only real gay character, Panagioti, who at least sets the homophobic Sasha straight, so to speak, on the subject of their evening occupation. Fearing, rightly, that Panagioti's become so enamored of one of his patrons that he's getting fucked, Sasha says, "You're a rent boy, not a faggot who takes it up the ass." The world-weary Panagioti simply replies, "Get with it. What's the difference?"

Tribal culture

From the *Edge of the City* purports to be an insider view of a tribal urban culture, and there's enough of the minutiae of these limited lives to credit it as such. But it's impossible to care much for these self-absorbed brats. For some viewers, it will work best as a tantalizing male flesh parade, like all those Eastern European porn flicks without the sex. Sasha's interest in boxing, for example, seems to come out of nowhere, simply an excuse to strip him down. A shower scene with Sasha and Giorgos is equally gratuitous, though one can hardly complain, except to say that what's hinted at — a soapy rubdown ending in a hot fuck — never materializes.

On the plus side, some of the dialogue has a gutter charm well suited to the subject. During one of Sasha and Natasha's jaunts through town, their bile-spewing cabbie neatly summarizes the film's world view: "You go to a whorehouse, and all you fuck is imported cunt. You want Greek pussy, you gotta mortgage your fucking house."

There are also some particular sequences that resonate nicely. One occurs when Sasha and a pal dance in a dark mini-amphitheatre deserted except for the small,



Picture This! Entertainment

'Butt me': Part of the tantalizing flesh parade *From the Edge of the City*

huddled-together group of friends. The understated moment says everything about the boys' aspirations without resorting to the endless visual trickery that afflicts much of the film.

This trickery saturates the film, everything from zooms and zip pans to blackouts that chop a scene to bits. Most annoying is a methed-up camera that tears through the landscape so fast the background becomes a blur, ultimately exhausting the eye. In one scene that would warm the heart of Ed Wood, Panagioti is standing with a trick in the latter's plush living room, looking at the beauti-

ful ocean view. Suddenly he disappears, literally popping off the screen. This kind of cartoonish touch makes it hard to take the film as seriously as it apparently wants.

Director Giannaris, queer and a former hustler himself, started out to make a documentary, but eventually opted for a quasi-fictional feature. Quasi because many of the actors are amateurs (obviously), the locations real (a seedy section of Athens, mostly). One "real" touch he retained are the interview sequences between himself and Sasha that interrupt the herky-jerky plot. These scenes attempt to bring the reality of the boys' lives into sharp focus, but Papadopoulos has a facial repertoire confined to perhaps two expressions, really two variants on wide-eyed surprise. Even when he's being pummeled by Daddy or Giorgos, or when he's dancing, boxing or fucking, he stares blankly ahead, his face unyielding as concrete. The director's attempts to probe him with philosophical questions like, "Is it ever possible to love a whore?" and, "Do you ever leave a place, or do you always carry it with you?" elicit reactions quite invisible, at least to this naked eye. ▼



Picture This! Entertainment

Sasha boxing: an excuse to strip

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Trapeze

◀ page 33

bareback rider Maria (Katy Jurado), points out that Lola is really in love with him that Ribble arrives at a plan to save the act and make Tino a star. Naturally, things don't turn out the way he expected.

Poetry in motion

Lancaster, a former professional acrobat, did his own stunts in the film, but his performance under Carol Reed's unobtrusive direction is memorable for far more than that. He conveys the essence of an angry, disillusioned man who, very much against his will, is given a chance to dream again. Once committed to that dream, his determination to make it a reality is frightening in its intensity. He shows the poetry and beauty of a great athlete and takes the oxymoron out of "trapeze artist."

Curtis, perfectly cast, does the first really effective work of his career, surprising audiences and critics alike. He is brash, naive, hopeful, and sensitive. His Tino is

almost as tightly coiled as Lancaster's Ribble — it's only a matter of time before his dreams will come to an abrupt end. But until then, his hunger for success is touching and sweet.

Lollobrigida, the first of the post-World War II European sex symbols to become an international star (Sofia Loren and Brigitte Bardot, among others, followed in her wake), looks sensational and is convincing when angry or in a brief scene recounting her humiliating childhood working in a tenth-rate carnival act. Her motivation for doing whatever she must to become a headliner is understandable, but she also wants to be likable, which hampers the overall effectiveness of her performance and is the film's only weak spot.

The always reliable Jurado is excellent as the warm and wise Maria, making the viewer wonder why Ribble left her. Gomez, restraining his scenery-chewing tendencies, superbly conveys an un-sentimental approach to business that puts profits ahead of people.

John Ringling North, playing himself, appears in a few scenes. Reed, most famous for *The Third Man* (1949) and an Oscar winner for *Oliver!* (1968), is derided by writers like David Thomson (*The Biographical Dictionary of Film*) for not having a unique perspective that shows in his work. Such criticism is pointless. In *Trapeze*, he offers a sober contrast to risible Hollywood portrayals of Big Top life like De Mille's *The Greatest Show on Earth* (1952) or Henry Hathaway's *Circus World* (1964). He also subtly makes it clear that the real romance in this movie is between Ribble and Tino. It may never be consummated physically, but what the two have found in each other is based on a lot more than flying through the air. The picture's ending complies with Hollywood conventions of the 1950s, but it's obvious no one is going to live happily ever after.

The film, produced by Lancaster's company, was a smash, despite poor reviews. The following year, he and Curtis reunited for *The Sweet Smell of Success*, a harrowing look at a Walter Winchell-like columnist and a sleazy press agent. ▼

Coming of age in Joyce Carol Oatesland

'Getting To Know You' at the Roxie

by David Lamble

Opning at the Roxie this week is a new film that is both intoxicating and seductive in its ability to entertain us with fragments from almost unbearably sad lives. *Getting To Know You* begins with a haunting scene of a dancing couple seemingly so in love. The film quickly informs us that it's all a lie, but that the truth, while brutal, is always better, and more satisfying in the end than the most alluring movie fantasy. In a 95-minute roller coaster ride, we learn that the life you save is always your own, that life is a metaphor for boxing and not the other way around, and that while opposites may attract, only true soulmates

endure.

In this powerfully evocative coming of age film based on the short fiction of Joyce Carol Oates, three teenagers are confronted by their worst fears and their greatest hopes, all in the theatre-like setting of an upstate New York bus station.

At the outset, all we know is that Judith and her older brother Wesley are returning from visiting their mother, a possibly permanent resident of a nearby psychiatric hospital. Sister and brother have made this trip so many times that the bus station's ticket agent greets them like old friends. These skinny, bird-like siblings have already picked out the hard plastic seats where they will wait for separate buses, taking Wesley to the freshman year of college, and Ju-

dith to the more uncertain fate of a teenage group home.

Enter Jimmy, a sassy boy whose drug of choice is the overhead conversations that he drinks in at the bus station — conversations that are like brewer's yeast to his imagination, allowing him to spin wonderfully improbable stories that keep him from facing his own. Jimmy, in a performance by newcomer Michael Weston that is both brash and intimate, spots Judith as a perfect audience for his tall tales. It's as if he knows without knowing that she has a sad story of her own that only his sometimes obnoxious coaxing will bring forth.

In a very auspicious feature debut, Lisanne Skyler, a recent UC Berkeley graduate, collaborates with her sister Tristine (who's also an actor in the film) to splice together three stories and a poem, creating an Oatesian universe that exceeds the sum of its parts.

The previous attempt to put Oates on film, the 1986 feature *Smooth Talk* (with a male screenwriter and a female director), despite a brilliantly visceral performance by Laura Dern, feels pasted together, the shotgun marriage of two incompatible partners: the richly felt angst of Oates' teenager, with her hopelessly trashy daydreams, wedded to the pop shock of a Rod Serling.

The Skyler sisters avoid the *Twilight Zone* version of Oates by carefully selecting a menage of



Michael Weston and Heather Matarazzo in *Getting To Know You*

G. LAVO

stories we can imagine and enjoy in bed together. The sisters Skyler steer clear of the trap of treating Oates as a sacred text. Their inventions — the character of Jimmy, the marvelous stage of the bus station — give us Oates at her darkest, while still opening a small rabbit-hole of redemption, from which some in this darkly humorous tale will emerge with their bodies, souls and dreams intact.

The film features a slyly sexy youthful cast whose pitch-perfect chemistry is as good as anything on screen this year. Skyler avoids

the blonde justice of making Judith a *Seventeen* magazine teen. Heather Matarazzo (*Welcome To The Dollhouse*) invests Judith with a sweet vulnerability that allows her gesture of giving the pushy bag lady her leftover chips to walk along *Getting To Know You's* vital if thin line of pathos and humor. Michael Weston as Jimmy is a revelation — he's winsomely lovable, even when acting like a borderline jerk. Zach Braff has the hardest job of making the terminally nerdy Wesley believable when he finally takes a poke at Dad. ▼

Out on video

Ripley times two

by Will Shank

The Talented Mr. Ripley

Written and directed by Anthony Minghella (Miramax)

You've read all of the press on *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. You know that the relentlessly likable Matt Damon is cast against type as a sociopath. But at the heart of *Ripley*, which was penned by lesbian novelist Patricia Highsmith (who also wrote the homoerotic *Strangers on a Train*) lies an emotional core which will resonate with queer viewers. Unlike the earlier French film version (see below), Minghella's is essentially a gay love story. Smitten with his role model, the self-absorbed but handsome and sophisticated Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law), our penniless protagonist Tom Ripley (Damon) observes his love god and learns from him. When his love expresses itself, tentatively, in a breathless bathtub scene, he is rebuked, at first gently, by his idol. But what homosexual cannot relate to that adolescent moment when a crush on a straight friend leads to a tortured, confused outburst that can only have a tragic outcome?

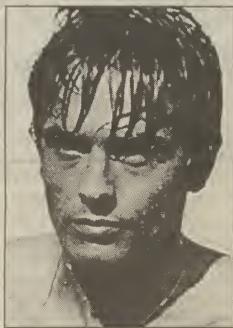
Damon is heart-breakingly convincing in the role of the jilted, self-loathing lover of the unattainable, golden demi-god. Not an easy film to watch, because it is unsettling to find oneself rooting for the psychopath. *Ripley* speaks in profound truths. There are no heroes or villains; there is only a lost generation of those whose love dared not speak its name, of which Highsmith was herself a part.

The entire cast is perfect, from Philip Seymour Hoffman as the creepy expatriate dilettante Freddy Miles, to Gwyneth Paltrow, who allows herself to remain mostly in the background as Madge, Dickie's fiancée. Particularly wonderful is Cate Blanchett (Elizabeth) as Meredith, a gushing socialite whose character does not appear in the novel, and whose hopeless crush on Tom Ripley is as sad as is his own infatuation with Dickie.

Purple Noon

Written and directed by René Clément (Miramax)

Not a new release on video, *Purple Noon* should nonetheless



Alain Delon in *Purple Noon*

be viewed as a double feature with *Mr. Ripley* by any devoted cinéaste. A much closer relative to the Highsmith novel than the Minghella film, the 1960 French version has the unspeakably beautiful 24-year-old Alain Delon in his screen debut as the young American abroad. A conniving opportunist from the outset, this Ripley plots his way into affluence with a great deal of premeditation, and without a sign of remorse. Less "pretty" than the newer version, the sun-flooded Mediterranean settings have a harsh sort of dramatic beauty, thanks to cinematographer Henry Decae, which reflects the French title of the screenplay, *Plain Soleil*.

The homosexual subtext is dropped from this version, and the idea of watching French people playing Americans takes some getting used to. (But why should it, if Hollywood expects the world to accept Burt Lancaster in *The Leopard* or Warren Beatty in *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* as Italians, for example?)

The appeal of *Purple Noon* is less one of Minghella's psychological drama, and more one of sensory stimulation. A violent wind whips the sails back and forth during a confrontation between the two leading men, alone at sea, and the thrashing of the canvas becomes a percussive soundtrack. The murderer strolls through an Italian open-air market, where every fish for sale stares back at him with dead, accusing eyes. And the ending of *Purple Noon* is one of the great moments in 20th-century cinema. ▼



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Sacred spaces

'Mandala: The Architecture of Enlightenment' at Berkeley Art Museum

by Michael McDonagh

The very idea of Buddhism is foreign to the Western mind. We are, after all, a greedy, self-absorbed, materialist culture, and live intensely disharmonious lives. If only we were better looking or rich (preferably both), well then we might — just possibly — be happy. This Western model of the personality is of course completely at odds with Buddhist thought, which stresses self-mastery as a means to enlightenment. One of the ways of getting there is through meditation and by contemplating sacred works of art. The Berkeley Art Museum's stunning new show, *Mandala: The Architecture of Enlightenment*, presents over 40 of these paintings and ritual objects from Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, China and Japan. Organized in New York and co-curated by Robert Thurman (Uma's father) of Tibet House and Columbia University, and Denise Patry Leidy of the Metropolitan Museum, it opens a window on this rare and very beautiful Buddhist sacred art.

But what exactly is a mandala? They're pictures, obviously, and have been compared to icons. But that's hardly the whole story, because mandala are much more complex and not just images — as icons are, of Christ, the Virgin or a saint — but a kind of visualization of the cosmos and of consciousness itself. They've even been likened to floor plans of the universe, the word mandala itself meaning to mark off, and also circle, essence, sacred center.

The earliest mandalas weren't even paintings, but spaces which were considered holy. The area around the Bodhi tree where Prince Siddhartha reached enlightenment and became the Buddha could be considered one. This idea evolved into the practice of placing rocks to mark the remains of a great teacher, and, in the Buddha's case, making a monument or stupa to commemorate this place. There are several examples of this kind of mandala here — an Indian Shakyamuni Buddha of stone (10th century) and a miniature brass stupa (chorten) from Tibet (13th century), which is a vertical representation of the universe from lotus base to a drop of enlightened consciousness above the moon. Pagodas fall into this category, too.

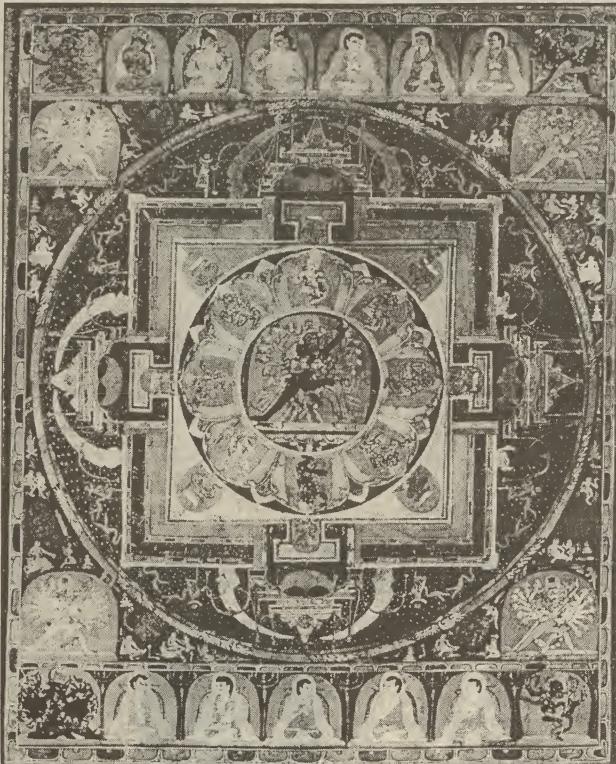
Palace dreams

Buddhist monks also paint mandala in a wide variety of styles, with complex symbols which only the initiated can read. (Scorsese's 1997 film on the early life of the current Dalai Lama, *Kundun*, opened with one made of sand.) Still, those who can't decipher their meanings can easily appreciate their artistic beauty — their brilliant subtle colors, geometric shapes suggesting palace floor plans of a circle within a square court, as well as their spectacular representations of gods, demons, animals, plants and budhas within multiple universes.

The Tibetan ones are easily the most elaborate and esoteric, like the 14th-century Kalachakra Mind Mandala, or the late 20th-century 13 Deity Yamataka Father Mandala constructed and painted by monks from the Tibetan community in

exile, in Dharamsala, India. The latter is a free-standing image of a painted palace with charming and terrifying images of the Buddhist pantheon. The Green Tara Threadcross Mansion Mandala, also 20th-century and from Dharamsala, is all of colored cotton thread and wood. It's a stunning example of the Buddhist concept of the interdependency or interrelatedness of all things, and a far cry from the Western idea of the alienated individual out there on his own, with no one to turn to. The very recent Western idea of working on yourself and working for the benefit of others has been a central part of Buddhism for several thousand years. Sure, mandala are beautiful to look at, but what's behind them is even more important.

The show's superb catalog is jam-packed with essential information on mandala, and Robert Thurman will give an illustrated



Hevajra Mandala, ink and opaque watercolors on cloth, from Tibet, early 13th century

© Michael J. and Beata McCormick Collection

lecture on Sunday, Sept. 10, 3 p.m. at 155 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley campus, and it's sure to be a knockout. ▼

Mandala: The Architecture of Enlightenment at the Berkeley Art Museum through Sept. 17. Info: (510) 643-2219.

information, call 861-8972.

Helping hands

There were quite a few last-minute celebrity dropouts at this year's *Help Is on the Way* concert, but despite the drubbing their vehicle took in the local press, the cast of *Titanic* showed up en masse to perform medley from *Kiss Me Kate*. This plucky troupe is giving up another of its nights off to further benefit the Richardson/Ermet AIDS Foundation.

They won't be alone. The cast of *Les Misérables* will also take part in this casual evening of cabaret at the 7th Note Showclub on Aug. 14. Tickets start at \$35, but for \$75 you also get prime seating, and a dessert party and bit of dancing with the cast after the show. Call 273-1620 for tickets.

Speaking of *Help Is on the Way*, even with the no-shows, the concert was a sleek and genial affair with several peaks. Those included Bruce Vilanch's variation on "Let's Do It" equipped with special lyrics and hilarious patter, and Betty Garrett easily stopping the show with her sharp memories of Cole Porter and a high-kicking delivery of "I'm in Love with a Soldier Boy."

And then there was Mark Leno getting particularly saucy with fellow supervisor Gavin Newsom as he offered his own lyrics to "You're the Top." One lyric stayed the same, but it took on a new spin as Leno leeringly recited it to a blushing Newsom: "Baby, if I'm the bottom, you're the top." ▼

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His co-star is Aaron Brace, a regular performer at New Conservatory. He has appeared as Mike in *The Lisbon Traviata*, Guy in *My Night with Reg*, and the twins Miles and Rennie in *Like a Vampire*.

Visiting Mt. Green, beginning previews this week, is a non-subscription offering in the New Conservatory's sixth Pride Season of gay-oriented theater. For ticket

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Jackie through the looking glass

James Spada on his new picture bio of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

by Bradley David

After penning 15 books about such icons as Barbra Streisand, Katharine Hepburn and Bette Davis, it was only logical for openly-gay celebrity biographer James Spada to pick as his next subject one of the most famous women the world has ever known, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

"I had admired Jackie since I was a child," says Spada. "I was 11 years old when her husband was inaugurated President. She was the first First Lady I was ever aware of. She was just so glamorous and beautiful, and such a great pictorial subject."

Spada's new book, *Jackie: Her Life in Pictures* (St. Martin's), was released this month to coincide with the sixth anniversary of her 1994 death. As Spada's fourth coffee-table biography (his other *Life In Pictures* subjects were Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe and Jane Fonda), the book features 251 black and white photographs of Jackie, many of which had never been published.

Besides his pictorial biographies, which feature photographs accented by Spada's chapter introductions and lengthy captions, the author has also written more in-depth investigative biographies of Streisand, Davis, Shirley MacLaine and Warren Beatty, Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli, Peter Lawford, Robert Redford, Princess Grace of Monaco and Bette Midler. He ruled out writing a full-scale biography of Jackie, reasoning that he wouldn't have much to add to what had already been written.

"Where I thought I could add something new was to find these unpublished photographs, rather than new information, which I didn't think was much out there to find," he says.

Spada says it cost him around \$20,000 of the advance he received

from his publisher to purchase the rights to the book's photos.

"I found many of the photos at the JFK Presidential Library, and they only charge about \$20 per photo to reproduce them," he says. "But when you deal with the photo agencies in New York, it can range anywhere from \$50 to \$300 per photo. That's one of the reasons, quite frankly, that a lot of the picture books that have come out haven't had that many interesting or new pictures, because a lot of people are not willing to spend that kind of money."

Dark photo

Interestingly, only one of the book's photos was taken in Dallas on that dark day in 1963 — a shot of the Kennedys and Connallys

Spada says he has always been open about his sexuality.

"I guess I came out in a pretty big way in 1979 when I did a book called *The Spada Report*, which was a national gay survey of attitudes and sexual practices," he says.

A native of Staten Island, New York, Spada lived for 20 years in Los Angeles before moving in 1996 to the Boston area. The man he dedicated the Jackie book to ("For Terry Brown, who brought contentment back into my life") is his partner of two years.

The person Spada has written about most is Barbra Streisand, who has been the subject of three of his books. His very first book, which he wrote when he was just 23, was the first major Streisand

'Where I thought I could add something new was to find these unpublished photographs, rather than new information, which I didn't think was out there to find.'

riding in the presidential limousine before it reached Dealey Plaza.

"I considered running the picture of them when he's hit and the picture of her on the back of the car, but I thought it was just too depressing," he says. "I think there's six pages on the assassination and the funeral, so I thought that was probably enough."

The author plans to send a copy of the book to Jackie's daughter, Caroline.

"I think she'll like it," he says. "Liz Smith said in her column that she thought Jackie would approve of the book. It's definitely a tribute to her."

A photographer himself, Spada also plans to self-publish a collection of his own photographs of male nudes later this year. Now 50,

biography on the market.

Streisand liked his first book so much that she actually authorized his second one on her.

"I didn't get to interview her, but I did get to interview people around her, like Vincente Minnelli and Phil Ramone, directors and people she had worked with," he remembers. "She didn't ask for any control, which was interesting, but I did send her a couple of chapters, and she marked them up."

When the book came out, however, Streisand was upset that Spada had used some baby pictures that he had taken off the TV screen when her mother appeared on a local talk show in LA. She threatened to sue, and Spada was forced to remove the photos be-



John F. Kennedy Library

Jackie toasts the Navy's new Polaris submarine at a luncheon in Groton, Connecticut in 1962. She had just christened the 7,000-ton vessel.

for the book's second printing.

Thirteen years later, when he decided to write yet another book on Streisand — *Barbra: The First Decade* — he was shocked when she again agreed to cooperate. She changed her mind, however, going back and forth a number of times before finally backing out.

"You know, Barbra can be so maddening, because she just hemmed and hawed and dragged her feet for so long," he says. "But the book is very objective in the sense that I used some material that I might have taken out if I were doing the book as a valentine. I don't think she was pleased, although I think the book was, in general, favorable. Barbra has a tendency, if the book is 800 pages and there's nothing but flattery

except for one criticism, to fixate on the one criticism."

When Spada wrote *More Than A Woman: A Biography of Bette Davis*, his subject was already dead, but he did once have an interesting telephone conversation with the legendary actress. After writing her to request an interview for his Peter Lawford bio (which, incidentally, exposed Lawford's bisexual love life), Spada was shocked to receive a call from Davis herself.

"She said, 'I never talk about anybody I work with,'" Spada remembers, doing a perfect impersonation of Davis. "I couldn't change her mind, but I thought it was so neat that she bothered to call me up and turn me down in person." ▼

REVIEW

Capturing Jackie

by Bradley David

Jackie: Her Life in Pictures by James Spada; St. Martin's Press, \$29.95

Of this handsome coffee-table book's 251 images chronicling every stage of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' life, 165 have never been published before, 58 have only rarely surfaced in newspapers and magazines but never in book form, and 28 are familiar photos that have been emblazoned on the world's collective psyche. So much has been written about this complex icon, but with the never-before-seen photos and Spada's detailed and engaging anecdotal captions, the author has admirably justified yet another book on Jackie.

Divided into seven sections, the book takes the reader from Jackie's birth to her death. The first photo of her is a Christmas portrait from 1929, the year of her birth. The last images of the book are of a frail Jackie walking down Fifth Avenue with her companion, Maurice Tempelsman, just one week before she succumbed to cancer on May 12, 1994, as well as a photo of her children, Caroline and the late JFK Jr., at her funeral.

Given the fact that Jackie was herself a newspaper photographer before marrying JFK (page 12 features a photo of her holding her bulky Speed Graphic camera) and that she became one of the most photographed women in the world, the pictorial biography seems a fitting genre for capturing this remarkable life. While the book is generally in very good taste, there are a couple of paparazzi shots from her days with Ari Onassis; Jackie chomping on a mouthful of spaghetti at a Rome restaurant; Jackie going braless beneath a clingy T-shirt while shopping in Portofino, Italy; and Jackie having a bad hair day in Greece. ▼

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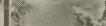
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States of desire

by Jim Nawrocki

Troublemaker by Brian Pera; St. Martin's Press, \$22.95

Books by or about ex-hustlers seem to be appearing everywhere these days. Last year brought both J.T. LeRoy's *Sarah*, a highly praised first novel about living on the road and in the streets, and Rick Whitaker's *Assuming the Position*, a memoir about the demands of plying the sex-for-hire trade in New York City. The latest addition to this emerging subgenre is Brian Pera's novel *Troublemaker*. For those who have read LeRoy and Whitaker's books, Pera treads familiar territory.

Pera's first novel is a narrative told in the voice of Earl, a less-than-sharp young man who wanders the country in search of both his family and an elusive character named Red. In many ways, Earl is an orphan. After watching his father succumb to a prolonged illness (brought about, in part, by his drinking), Earl is more or less abandoned by his cold, distant mother. He runs away and travels from state to state in search of connection with an aunt and a grandmother, never quite achieving the communion with them that he desires. Along the way Earl supports himself (and his drug habit) as a male prostitute, working in a house of boys run by a woman named Madam, and then on his own as a "kept boy."

Earl's aimlessness and naïveté are brought home in the novel's first sentence: "Nothing else in the world to do, and nowhere else to go's how I ended up at the *carnie*." At the *carnie*, or traveling carnival, Earl meets Red, a young man about his age who seems to be even more restless and troubled than Earl. Though their meeting is brief, Earl feels an intense connection and attraction to Red, and as soon as he is separated from him he spends the rest of the novel trying

ing to find him again.

Earl's search for Red becomes his quest, a quest he pursues so earnestly that it soon becomes clear that Earl lives his life in an almost delusional state. Though he meets Red by chance and interacts with him only briefly, he nevertheless creates and falls in love with a romanticized idealization of Red. The gulf between the two young men, and the truly sinister nature of Red's world, becomes clear only when Earl is later reunited with him. Though Red is fairly honest about who he is and what he does, Earl doesn't grasp the full import of what Red reveals to him. He only realizes that Red is not the person he thought he was, and moves on.



puter on his desk. We are all in rows there, right up against each other but you'd never know, never a word except about business. That's not really talking. When I leave my things at the end of the day to come out into the light, it's like getting out of a dark prison. But you don't want to hear about all of this." Like too many of the other characters that move through *Troublemaker*, the Walrus seems to be more of a caricature than a human being.

These weaknesses are due, in large part, to the fact that Pera chooses to present Earl in the first person, and in Earl he creates a character who is better at telling his story than reflecting on it. It is a difficult task for a novelist to unfold a story through a narrator who has limited perspective and awareness, and Pera doesn't always rise to that challenge. Travelling with Earl as he moves from place to place, the reader becomes somewhat road-weary. Perhaps that's part of the effect that Pera hopes to achieve. *Troublemaker* does not tell a pleasant story, after all. Still, by the end of the novel, one is left wondering, is that all there is? ▼

Kiss Me Kate

◀ page 33

Sugar Babies.
The one flaw in the film is Kathryn Grayson as Lilli Vanessi/Kate the Shrew. Just why this plum role went to her remains a mystery, especially since she had

been released from her MGM contract in 1952 (after 12 years of mostly shrill trilling) and the studio had to borrow her back from Warner Bros., where she made the dull *Desert Song* and the unsuccessful biography of opera star Grace Moore, *This Is Love* (both 1953).

In *Kate*, Grayson mistakes a pout for temperament, is forced to wear an unbecoming blonde wig, sings gratingly (her "I Hate Men" is also unconvincing emotionally), and seems to have learned the Bard's dialogue phonetically. It's a shame the attractive Morrison didn't get to repeat her stage success. The extraordinarily voluptuous Grayson made only one more movie after *Kate*, the unsuccessful *Vagabond King* (1956). Decades later, she would have a recurring part as one of Cabot Cove's beauty parlor regulars on television's *Murder, She Wrote*, starring Lansbury.

In the comic roles of thugs seeking to collect on an IOU, Keenan Wynn and James Whitmore are very funny and stop the show with the hilarious "Brush Up Your Shakespeare." Their malapropisms are flawlessly enunciated in the finest Damon Runyon tradition.

Although the movie dropped one number, "Bianca," it restored one of Porter's greatest songs, "From This Moment On," which had been cut from the show during

the play's out-of-town tryouts. It's the dancing highlight of the movie. Miller and Rall are joined in it by Fosse, Van, Carol Haney, and Jeanne Coyle. Partnered here by Fosse, Haney, a terrific dancer, would soon become the toast of New York in *The Pajama Game*, repeating the role for the movies. But she's now best remembered for breaking her leg, an accident that allowed understudy Shirley MacLaine to be seen by producer Hal Wallis and Alfred Hitchcock. They promptly signed her for *The Trouble With Harry* (1955), which launched her 40-plus year film career.

After *Kate*, musicals generally lost their luster at the box office, although they sporadically recovered: *The King and I* (1956), *Gigi* (1958), *West Side Story* (1961), *My Fair Lady* and *Mary Poppins* (1964), *The Sound of Music* (1965), and *Cabaret* (1978), before all but disappearing from Hollywood, unless in animated form. Madonna's failure to fill the theatres with *Evita* seems to confirm that the genre can no longer draw contemporary audiences. But then, Andrew Lloyd Weber is no Cole Porter. If you want to get a sense of what Broadway musicals were like in their heyday, rush to the Castro to catch the master, *Evita*.

Kiss Me Kate plays the Castro in 3-D, August 11-24

Bosie

◀ Arts cover

poems would receive a fair reading or assessment in his day. Young Murray decided years ago to rectify that sad state of affairs, which has resulted in his captivating biography, *Bosie* (Hyperion).

"I intended originally to write a book about poetry," says the sunny 20-year-old author, casually attired in a white linen suit over a pale button-down T-shirt, as he sips a beer at the Top of the Mark on Nob Hill, fresh from a live, on-air interview at Berkeley's KPFA Radio. "That was one of the first things that kick-started me, finding a copy of one of his poems that hadn't been taken out of the library in 50 years, and realizing they were bloody good. I think some of them are."

He was a mere 15 at the time, a student at Eton prep school, and little did he know that within five years he would be one of the darlings of the book-publishing world, zipping around the globe, promoting a book published by Tina Brown's latest enterprise, Talk Miramax Books, an imprint of Hyperion Books.

"I took a year out between Eton and Oxford," explains Murray, asked how he managed as a student to produce such a well-researched, well-written book. "In England, it's very common. I spent my time teaching. My contemporaries did as well. And in my spare time I wrote the book."

No doubt marketing decisions factored into Brown's interest in Murray. He presents at media ops just the sort of sophisticated, sexy young face and engaging personality cameras and tape recorders love to record. As important, and as enticing, is the book's literary merit, which earns high marks. Murray stubbornly set out to show that Bosie wasn't the complete villain he's been made out to be, and that he deserves recognition for his literary accomplishments.

"I think he should be regarded as a good minor poet," declares Douglas. To convince skeptics and lure new Bosie fans, Murray traces the intricacies of the relationships among all the key players in the Bosie/Wilde saga with passion,

thoroughly but engagingly delineating and speculating on the facts. The biographer clearly sides with his principal subject, but he's never a dyed-in-the-wool Bosie apologist.

Murray describes Bosie as "an antihero, a tremendous lesson in how not to live your life. The great problem with Bosie always has been and always was, from the beginning of his life, he makes a mess of enemies."

It may be life imitating art, but Murray himself now attends Magdalen College, Oxford — the very college Bosie attended when he had his first affair with Wilde, when it was still a haven for "schoolboy business." Clearly, Bosie was happiest in life at that time, before homophobia destroyed their love.

The key incident that almost completely unhinged Bosie was Wilde's apparent betrayal from beyond the grave, where he was untouchable. Wilde's seeming animus toward Bosie rose up in the form of an infamous, accusatory letter addressed to Bosie, given to one Robbie Ross to deliver, but which Bosie claimed never to have received. When that letter's contents were read aloud in court, Wilde's hostile words stabbed him, destroying any traces of his former carefree innocence, turning him into the ogre he became until his autumnal years.

It's almost a Romeo and Juliet affair, where letters are crossing "and don't arrive in time, absolutely," Murray agrees. "It's a terribly tragic story, really two. One tragedy, although it's the short version in the book, is the tragedy of Oscar Wilde, and the other one is the tragedy of Alfred Douglas. I have in many ways so much more sympathy with Bosie in this."

Bosie can be admired as a fighter of enormous resolve, com-



Bosie author Douglas Murray

"I am the Love that dare not speak its name." But in truth, that flame had long since expired, the torch taken up by others more true to their natures.

While Murray's sympathies are with Bosie, his scholarship allows readers to make informed judgments. Admirers of the sonnet will, indeed, find much to admire in Bosie. He wasn't half bad. Readers who find no mystery in a gay man going straight, on the other hand, will find no problem with Murray's failing to cast a sufficiently critical eye on Bosie's apparent transformation. Murray seems reluctant to criticize.

Given the repressive social atmosphere of his time, it's not surprising that Bosie proclaimed himself straight and allied himself with the Church. He had to survive. He was tired of insults, jails, rumors, and his status as social outcast. He wanted to be embraced, and for that he turned to his own aristocratic class for solace and comfort. He got but a modicum of it.

One thing seems certain, however: had gay liberation occurred on his watch, you can bet Bosie would have jumped right in, conversion be damned. After all, the best times of his life were as a happy pervert. Bosie once wrote to Wilde from Biskra, North Africa, "saying that he'd had a new lover and that they had sex once or twice a day, and that he was so young that the milk of his mother still hadn't been wiped from his mouth," says Murray. "This boy was only 13; Bosie was 23." ▼

The Unofficial Lord Alfred Douglas page is on members.aol.com/starparty/bosie.html.

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LIVE Fire Breathing Show

Photos courtesy of David Forrest Productions & Channel One Releasing

Out There

◀ page 30

Hotel Utah will be SF singer/songwriter **Garrin Benfield** and his band. Tickets are \$4; for info, call 421-8308.

Mary Landers

OK so we admit it, Out There comes from Baltimore, Maryland, also once home to such notables as much-loved former BAR arts editor **Danny Margolin**, 20th-c. newspaperman and critic **H.L. Mencken**, and immortal poet and author **Edgar Allan Poe**. So we've seen fifth dignitary **John Waters** out & about in Bawlfamer: at the art-house Charles Theatre, or at the gay sleaze bar the Atlantis (made famous from Waters' *Pecker*, with its refrain, "No tea-bagging!").

All of which is to say Waters not only stays current with the latest stuff by going out himself; he stays accessible, always gracious and friendly in our experience. Which is also to say: Not everyone who becomes big becomes a big asshole! A Baltimore moral which resonates all the way to the Gay Area.

Self service

Out There snapped up a copy of British satirist **Will Self's** story collection *Tough, Tough Toys for Tough, Tough Boys*, now out in a

paperback edition from Grove Press. It's just our type of catnip.

We swooned over the almost tender — if one could use such a word in describing Self's icy-cold voice — tone of "Caring, Sharing," a sci-fi/fantasy tale of "grown-ups" in Manhattan, and their emotionally sustaining relationships with their "emotos," large, nurturing androids custom-made for their owners — and not incidentally, of the same sex. "Grown-ups" are those who have opted to be non- "procreo." Think: non-breeder.

"They had spent most of the day chatting, both of them cuddled by their emotos; the childlike giants standing waist deep in the ocean swell, cradling their respective grown-ups in their arms. 'There is nothing more sensuous,' Karin had said to Emil in an unguarded moment, 'than the smell of wet emoto skin, wet emoto hair, and the great wet ocean.'"

Self's story is the creepiest take on modern love, hetero or homo, we've read in a long while. His young singles meet at Yuppie watering holes like the Bowery Brasserie, park their emotos in separate facilities, and never touch each other, much less confront their fear of sex. They've infantilized their human needs and put their emotional trust in technology. It's a strange, oblique world strangely reminiscent of USA 2000. ▼

OUT & ABOUT

Fri 11

Bucheon Gallery

Opening reception: "A Big Picture Show," large-scale works by Phyllis Bramson, Laura Mosquera, John Bankston, Leslie Wilkes, Ken Kirsch, Margaret Wall-Roman, Riley McFerrin and Jeff Nord. A lesbian-owned gallery in the heart of Hayes Valley. Free. 6-8pm. Exhibit runs thru Sept. 13. 540 Hayes St. 863-2891; www.bucheon.com

New Conservatory Theatre Center

SF Premiere: "The Fitting Room," written and directed by Kathryn G. McCarty, a series of interconnected vignettes involving an array of people — a business woman, a widower and

his young daughter, a gay man and his best friend, and elderly couple, teenagers on a wild adventure, etc., as encountered from a peek inside a ladies dressing room. Co-presented by the Galetean Players. \$15. 8pm. Thru Sept. 10. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

Yerba Buena Center

The Merola Opera Program presents three performances of Johann Strauss Jr.'s *Die Fledermaus*, fully staged and costumed, directed by Dorothy Danner, with members of the SF Opera Orchestra, conducted by Joseph Colaneri. Two casts; 22 singers representing seven nations. The operetta follows a libretto by Haffner and Genée from a French vaudeville *Le Réveillon* by Meilhac and Halévy. \$30 & \$40. 8pm. Also Sat. 8pm & Sun.

2pm. 701 Mission St. (btwn 3rd & 4th sts.). Tix: 978-2787 or 864-3330

Theater Artaud

The California Contemporary Dancers celebrate their 10th anniversary. Artistic Director Yasmine Sorab Mehta and Patrick Mkuakane, of the hula company Na Lei Hulu I Ka Wekiu, unveil choreographed pieces by both companies. Plus special guests artists FatChanceBellyDance and Unbound Spirit. \$18 (\$35 for benefit show on Sat., Aug. 12). 8pm Fri.; 7pm Sat.; 2pm Sun. thru Aug. 20. 450 Florida St. Tix: 621-7797 or BASS.

Eureka Theatre

42nd Street Moon presents "The Good Companions," Johnny Mercer and André Previn's 1974 musical, created from JB Priestley's beloved novel. Set in Europe during the Great Depression, the story follows a troupe of British music-hall entertainers as they travel the British Isles. The score includes songs such as "Stagestruck," "The Pleasure of Your Company," and "Darkest Before the Dawn." Featuring Don Cima, Alison Ayers, Bill Farmer, and Marsha (Ward) Lanzo. \$25 Fri., Sat., Sun. \$19 seniors/students. Thru Aug. 27. 215 Jackson St. (at Battery). Info/tix: 788-1125; www.42ndStMoon.com

Herbst & Festival Pavilions, Fort Mason Center

"Live Craft: ACC craft show San Francisco," the West Coast's largest juried crafts show, with more than 350 artisans presenting works, sponsored by the American Craft Council. Local artists include Mark Thomas (wearable fibers), Michael Gard (metals), Petra Class (metal jewelry) Jette Valkala (furniture), Laura Zindel (ceramics), Patrick Meyer (metals), and James Aarons (ceramics), among others. \$8 (\$14 two-day pass). 10am-8pm (10am-6pm Sat.; 10am-5pm Sun.). Info: 896-5060.

1428 Alice St., Oakland

The Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble present "Stand Tall. Stand Still." Featuring guest choreographer Rosangela Silvestre from Brazil and select musicians from Mutama female vocal/percussion ensemble. A showcase celebrating the spirit and diversity of women, a spiritual, metaphysical and cultural journey of sisterhood. \$12 adv.; \$15 door. 3pm. Also Aug. 12. Info: (510) 801-4523.

ArtBeat Gallery

"Signo Vital: Arias y Aragon Summer



Joan Almedilla

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Proud Pilipinos

To be Filipino/Pilipino American in San Francisco is to have access to great wealth, culture-wise, especially beginning this week when not one but two major events take place that involve the entire Filipino/Pilipino community and their admirers.

The action for both events takes place primarily at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (701 Mission St. at 3rd St.), a South-of-Market site of special significance to many of Philippine extraction, since the 5.5-acre cultural facility is situated where once there was a thriving Filipino community, which was demolished by "urban renewal" to make way, eventually, for Yerba Buena.

"Pistahan 2000" boldly acknowledges the former displacement by trumpeting the 7th Annual Filipino American Arts Exposition happening outdoors in lovely Yerba Buena Gardens and indoors in the acoustically sound Forum space. For this week, at least, the refugees return home, and they go all out to make the most of it.

The two-day cultural festival, taking place August 12-13, features a marathon of performances and exhibits, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday and 12:05 noon - 6 p.m. Sunday.

Performers at the free fest include *Les Mis* headliner Joan Almedilla ("I Dreamed A Dream") on stage along with other Filipino artists from near and far — an R&B singing group sensation from southern California, Devotion, and Pinoy rock band Kayumangi from Houston, Texas and more.

Local talents taking their star turn include up-and-coming band Love Daria along with Big Saints, Melinda Lopez, Singatla Theater Ensemble, Pi and Rubymar, and singers from Destini West Records and Loud Impact Records.

For action sequences, participants include the Karilagan Dance Company from Hercules, Ating Tao (Our People), a 75-member drum ensemble from SF State University, a martial arts group, and other indigenous art forms and artists.

"Expressions: Pinoy" is the name of the visual-arts component of the fest, featuring works by seven Manila-based painters.

A special PANAMA Arts Legacy Awards ceremony will take place in the Forum at 7 p.m. Saturday (\$25), honoring a variety of Filipinos in the arts, including Carlos Villa, professor of SF Art Institute and the founder of the Filipino American Arts Exposition.

As part of the fest, but across Mission St. from YBC, at St. Patrick's Church, New York City-based pianist Anna Maria Manalo displays her artistry during a special Noontime Concert on Wednesday, August 16 at 12:30pm (\$5).

Admission to the outdoor events is free. For tix/info, phone 989-8088.

From Thursday, Aug. 17 through Sunday, Aug. 20, again at Yerba Buena Center, at 8pm each night, *Kulintang Arts* presents "The Post-Modern American Pilipino Performance Project," featuring the Alleluia Panis Dance Theatre, Kontra-Gapi Music & Dance Ensemble, Rex Navarrete, Tongue In A Mood, Teatro ng Tanan, and OA.

"PoMo is the spirit of Pilipino culture as a living, breathing thing," explained artistic director Alleluia Panis. Appropriately, in Program I of the affair, SoMa vaudevillians Tongue In A Mood present a psychedelic cabaret, along with TnT's surreal and tumbling "under the big top" Red Nose Revue and OA's "Generate," a hip-hop serum of youth wisdom set to the beat of a rocking chair.

Tix for each event are \$15 advance, \$18 door. Call 978-ARTS. ▼

rary setting. Says Artistic Director Olivia Stapp: "We chose Werther because it is a tenor's dream and we have the dream tenor for it — David Miller." One critic described Miller's voice as "a superior instrument marked by a slight throb." \$20-\$58. 8pm. Thru Aug. 20. 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Info/tix: (925) 943-7469; www.festivalopera.com

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano

"Fiesta Blanco y Negro," the latest monthly potluck party for all Spanish-speaking Bay Area gay men and their friends, held in a local residence. For details, call Javier at 550-0388 or Andy at 522-1894.

King Street Garage

Futura salutes Showtime's "Resurrection Blvd," the first dramatic series to predominantly feature Latinos both in front of and behind the camera. Featuring actor Nicholas Gonzalez ("Alex Santiago") in person. In the TV series being widely acclaimed as comparable to the heavy-weight "Sopranos" series, Gonzalez plays a pre-med student from a large, loving, working-class family in East LA. With DJ Eduardo supplying sounds of Cumbia, Merengue, Salsa, Quebrida and Latin House with regular House; go-go boy eye candy, plus lots of shirtless, sweaty guys dancing; appetizers on the balcony, 10pm-3am, 21+ w/ID. 174 King St. (at 3rd St.). 665-6715; www.futura.com

Sat 12

California Club

Benefit dinner & show: "Who Murdered Empress Sachet?" A murder mystery plays out in full Broadway-style on five different stages as attendees partake of a three-course dinner with complementary wine and cocktails, plus a silent auction. Follow Empress XXX of San Francisco Donna Sachet as she sashays through the City, encountering suspects plotting her dastardly demise. Proceeds support Positive Resource Center, which assists people affected by HIV/AIDS through culturally appropriate counseling, education and advocacy. \$65 (\$120 per couple; tables of eight \$480). 5:30pm. 1750 Clay St. (btwn Van Ness & Polk). 401-8213.

A Different Light

Singer/songwriters Jim Hall ("Places") and Garrin Benfield ("Living A Dream") greet fans and autograph copies of their new CDs. Free. 2pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Concourse Exhibition Center

"Arts & Crafts San Francisco," the West Coast's largest non-juried crafts show, featuring vintage, Art Nouveau, Native American, Ranch and Western items, including furniture, jewelry, pottery, photography, books, lighting, art, textiles, rugs and clothing. Plus lectures, tours, book signings and more. Produced by Penelope Cloutier. \$8. 10am-6pm (Sun. 11am-5pm). At 8th & Brannan. Info: www.artands-crafts-st.com

ArtBeat Gallery

Opening reception: "Signo Vital: Arias y Aragon Summer

Sun 13

A Different Light

E. Lynn Harris reads from *Not a Day Goes By*, a new novel looking at the life of a former funky football player poised to marry a Broadway diva. Is he being too straight for his own good? Free. 3:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Sigmund Stern Grove

Stern Grove Festival. A family affair. Arrive real early to claim a picnic spot. Free. 2pm. 19th Ave. at Sloat Blvd. Info: 252-6252; www.stern-grove.org

Theatre Rhinoceros

The Cutting Ball Theater presents "The End of the World As We Know It," a double-bill of apocalyptic plays: *Hamletmachine* by Heiner Müller, written in East Germany before the fall of the Berlin wall, in which a torn intellectual named Hamlet reflects on the nightmare of the 20th century ("My thoughts are lesions in my brain. My brain is a scar. I want to be a machine. Arms for grabbing. Legs to walk on. No pain no thoughts."); and *Mayakovskiy: A Tragedy* by Russian futurist poet and playwright Vladimir Mayakovskiy, who takes us into a seedy, surreal city populated by misfit creatures with names like The Thousand Year Old Man, The Enormous Woman Perhaps Twenty Feet Tall, and The Woman With One Arm and One Leg. \$12-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Thru Aug. 20. 2926 16th St. Info/tix: 861-5079.

PFLAG/St. Francis Church

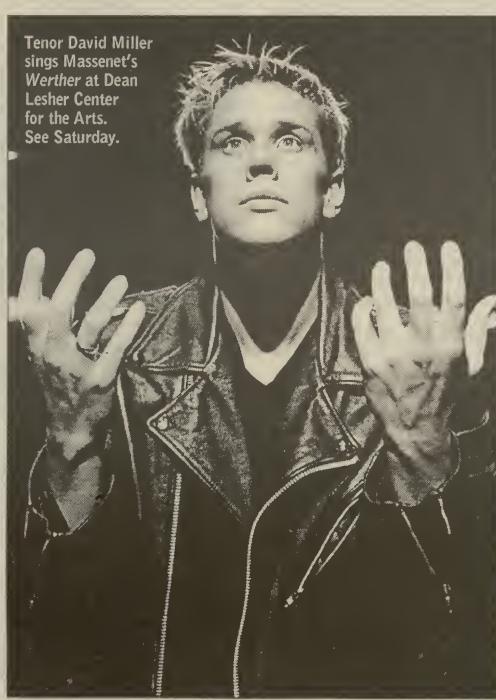
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) hosts Amity Pierce Buxton, director of the Straight Spouse Support Network (SSN) and author of *The Other Side of the Closet*, who will talk about the progress being made by spouses and family on both sides of the closet door. The book broke new ground when it was published. Free. 2-3pm support group (all welcome); 3-4pm program. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. (at Market). 921-8850.

Hotel Utah

Singer/songwriters Garrin Benfield ("Living A Dream") and Jim Hall ("Places") perform on the Utah's intimate stage, a good place for performers and audience to connect. \$4 cover. 8:30pm. 500 4th St. 421-8308.

Paradise Lounge

The Tuck & Roll Players ("Cyberatica") present "Club Inferno," a rock 'n' roll drag revue created and produced by Peter Fogel and Kelly Kittell. Starring Connie Champagne, Arturo Galster, Leigh Crow, Trauma Flintstone, Kennedy, Peter Fogel, and Birdie-Bob Watt. The show opens with megastar Danté singing her smash hit, "I Want My Fifteen Minutes of Fame," when her number is cut short.



The Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble illuminate the stage at 1428 Alice St. in Oakland. See Friday.



Irene Young

by a tragic accident. She wakes up at the Gates of Hell where she is greeted by poet Virgil. From there she meets Xaron, Cleopatra, Karen Carpenter, Mamma Cass, Lucrezia Borgia, and Judy Garland. Will Danté ever find her way back to the world of the living? \$15. 8pm. 308 11th St. 621-1911.

Mon 14

SFMOMA

Ongoing exhibition: "Cremaster 2," the latest installment in Matthew Barney's series of cinematic "operas," traces the rise and fall of antihero Gary Gilmore — convicted killer and alleged grandson of Harry Houdini. Barney's film and related installations are populated with bees, bison, heavy-metal drummers, magicians, mediums and much more. \$9 (\$6 seniors; \$5 students); half-price Thursdays 6-9pm. Open daily (except Wed.) 11am-6pm. 151 Third St. 357-4000.

Tue 15

di Rosa Art Preserve, Napa Valley

Dusk-to-dawn HIV/AIDS healing ceremonial puja (prayer ceremony), remembering those who have died of the

disease and honoring those who live on, presented by The Tibetan Buddhist monks of Gyudmed Tantric Monastery, in association with the Napa Valley HIV Network at Queen of the Valley Hospital. The ceremony, beginning tonight at 7:02pm and ending at 6am Aug. 16, will be visually stunning, with the monks in their crimson and gold robes chanting and praying in the Preserve's beautiful "Glass Chapel," lit from within by traditional Tibetan butter-lamps. The evening will highlight the power of collective prayer, regardless of faith or belief. An identical ceremony will be performed simultaneously by the 500 monks in residence at Gyudmed Tantric Monastery in Mysoore, India. Email names to be included in the ceremony to hivaidspuja@onebox.com, or phone (707) 266-2039, ext. 2114. Donations welcome. For information on attending (space very limited), phone (707) 253-0868.

Yerba Buena Center

New exhibition: "Multiple Sensations," projects exploring seriality, collecting, and obsessions. Featuring works by Michael Light ("Drift"), Catherine Chalmers ("Food Chain"), Wenyon and Gamble ("Biblomancy"), and, from the amateur photographic archives of Gary Lee Boas, "Starstruck: Photographs from a Fan," thousands of candid snapshots of celebrities and nearly forgotten cult

personalities, taken 1966-1980 with pre-paparazzi innocence. Lots more. Tues.-Sun., 11am-6pm; Thur.-Fri., 11am-8pm. Galleries, Grand Lobby, and Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Info: 978-ARTS; www.yerbaeuaarts.org

Wed 16

Museum of Craft & Folk Art, Fort Mason Center

"Cicada Fashion Show: Spirit of the Mandala," a benefit for the museum. The Mandala Collection is inspired by the sublime Himalayan Mountains and plateau, the sacred temples and monuments, and rich costumes and jewels of Tibet. Cicada's contemporary dying and sewing techniques blend indigenous textile imagery to capture the essence of the culture. \$60 (\$50 museum members). 6pm, Conference Center, Fort Mason Center. 775-0991.

A Different Light

Mark Pritchard reads from *Too Beautiful*, a collection of short stories with bisexual tendencies. Free. 7:30pm.

Thu 17

The Lab

"Paws Across the Universe," an original rock opera written by Ellis from the SF band Natural Fonzie. It follows the tale of a lonely dog drifting through outer space who receives a telepathic message from an unfamiliar blue planet. On Earth, temperatures begin to rise mysteriously, causing a mythical race of beings from the snow to start melting. Three kids take a walk in the park and become embroiled in a desperate struggle to save the world from an enemy no one expected. Featuring members of several local bands. \$7-\$10 sliding. 10pm. Also on Fri. & Sat. Aug. 18 & 19. 2948 16th St. (at Capp). 864-8855.

A Different Light

Rembert Trulock reads from *Steps to Recovering from Bible Abuse*, which presents the "Good Book" in a different light. Free. 7:30pm.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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John Waters

◀ Arts cover

really tried to shock when I made *Pink Flamingos*, that was a terrorist movie in a way, against hippies and peace & love. It was a punk rock movie before there was punk rock. Something was blowing in the wind, and it was anger, not peace & love. To me, there is little edge left in any city these days, that's why kids no longer have to go to New York or San Francisco, there are cool places everywhere. In San Francisco, all the little sex shops I used to go into are cafeteria stores, which I'm not opposed to. Everyone's waiting for a dot fuck, that's the difference.

Where do the gay cognoscenti of Baltimore now go for their blowjobs?

To a straight bar called the Club Charles. All the coolest gay people now go to mixed bars, bars that are gay, straight, black, bisexual. Separatism is defeat. The cool gay kids in Baltimore go to mixed bars. What is the coolest gay bar in Baltimore? I don't know. It's not the one I go to, which is The Port in the Storm, a really hardcore lesbian bar where Johnny Cash lookalikes dance with women with beehives. I took Debbie Harry the last time I went there. She was scared. I also love the Atlantis, the male strip bar I used in

views. He's a television producer now. He's doing great, and he looks great. The older he is the more handsome, the more rugged he looks. I saw him at a barbecue at Elizabeth Taylor's recently. Her staff likes me, which is the only reason I was invited. Jennifer Jones was there, too.

Whenever I hear "Jennifer Jones," all I can think of is that makeup she wore in *Duel in the Sun*. Oh my God, what were they thinking?

Well, if you liked it then, you ought to see it now!

Now that you're over 50, how do you plan to stave off the seemingly inevitable slide into irrelevancy that hits almost everyone in the entertainment industry after a certain age?

I don't agree with that. I don't think it affects everyone. You have to keep interested in what young people do. Never believe "they don't make them like they used to." Yes, they do. They make them better than they used to, if you ask me.

If you live to be 95, like Bob Hope, and they release you from rehab at the Eisenhower Medical Center, when you wave to the crowd from the balcony, as Hope did recently, who would you like to have standing by your side?

Well, I wouldn't wave, I'd probably be giving them the finger.

"I'm single right now. I'm better single, I have a great life as a single man, and I have people I sleep with. I don't want to be dragging anybody around on publicity tours. Being in love is kind of another job."

Pecker. Now they have frontal nudity with guys dancing with hard-ons.

If Tab Hunter finally came out of the closet (Troy Donahue came very close to outing him at a recent public appearance at the Castro Theater), what difference would it make?

None. Why would Tab Hunter come out? He doesn't do inter-

Who would I like standing by my side? My dearest friends. If I outlive them, probably an incredibly helpful male nurse, somebody who's taking care of me. He can lead me out, and I'll give 'em the finger.

I haven't read anything about your personal life.

That's why it's called a personal life. I've kept it that way. The



Abbott Genser

Jack Noseworthy, Melanie Griffith, and Stephen Dorff in a scene from *Cecil B. Demented*

people I've been involved with have not been in show business. I've been out always, it's no big deal. I was on the cover of some gay paper called *Gay News* in

a gay club. My favorite gay club is in New York, it's called Squeezebox. They advertise themselves as a hetero-friendly gay bar. It's 75% gay and 25% the coolest straight kids.

I'm single right now. I'm better single, I have a great life as a single man, and I have people I sleep with. I don't want to be dragging anybody around on publicity tours. Being in love is kind of another job. I've had three major relationships in my life, and I'm still with all three of them.

What's your next film about?

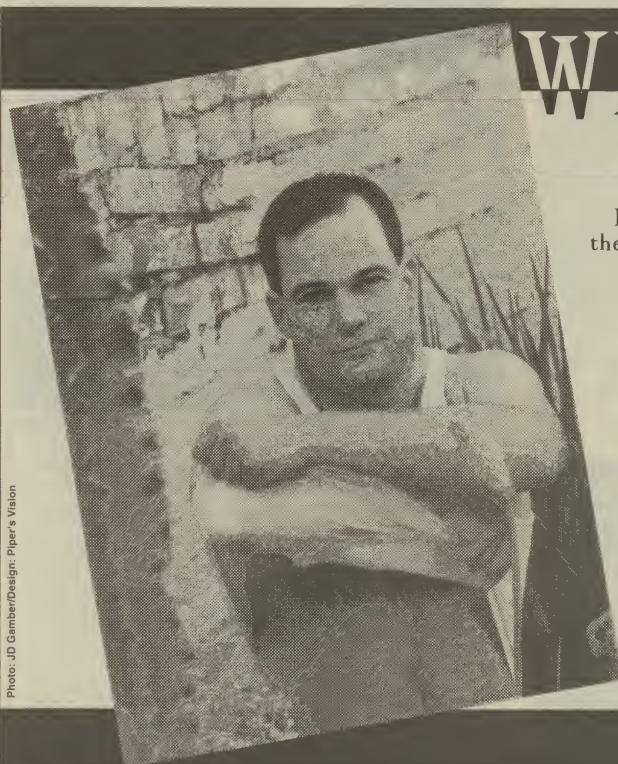
Sex addicts. It's called *A Dirty Shame*. I don't like to talk about it much because I'm still thinking about it. It's about their fight for dignity in blue-collar, small-town America. I think it'll be funny. A lot of my movies are about compulsive behavior and obsessions.

Do you watch *Sex and the City*? I've seen it. I like to read, so I

don't really watch TV. The last book I read was a history of the Stork Club.

Did you ever think about making a mainstream, traditional movie?

No, not really. But if I ever did it, it would be the biography of Grace Metalious, who wrote *Peyton Place*. Roseanne would be perfect in the role, they're physically very similar, and they both liked causing trouble. Grace became an alcoholic, and her whole life was ruined in five minutes by her success. She bought Cadillacs and drank herself to death in the Plaza Hotel very quickly. But I still love her. "Indian summer is like a woman," that's the first line of *Peyton Place*. Ha, ha, ha. But even if I filmed the life of Grace Metalious, it wouldn't be a straight movie, it would be a twisted movie. People would just start laughing and think I was kidding anyway. I love extreme lives, don't you? ▼



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FILM

Baltimore or bust?

John Waters' 'Cecil B. DeMented'

by Robert Julian

John Waters, the father of midnight movies, kicks off his fifth decade of filmmaking by returning to Baltimore for an anti-Hollywood satire on the pitfalls of filmmaking — both alternative and mainstream. *Cecil B. DeMented* (Stephen Dorff) is a crazed indie who decides to simultaneously trash Hollywood and elevate his own style of guerrilla filmmaking by kidnapping movie star Honey Whitlock (Melanie Griffith) at the Baltimore premiere of her new film. Honey is a foul-mouthed, spoiled bitch, but DeMented and his production crew posse will soon cut her down to small-screen size.

As it turns out, the kidnapping is only the first step in an elaborate plan to brainwash Honey and force her to star in DeMented's *Raving Beauty*, a no-budget film to be shot on the run, literally. Honey, won over to the DeMented cause, turns into a two-fisted, pistol-packin' Momma, loyal to DeMented and the "Sprocket Holes," his drugged-out production crew. Like armed and dangerous Keystone Cops, DeMented and his crew wreck havoc throughout Baltimore, but finally complete their film.

Writer/director Waters puts usual suspects Ricki Lake, Patty Hearst and Mink Stole into small roles in *Cecil B. DeMented*. And although Hearst plays the mother of one of the Sprocket Holes, it's hard not to think of Hearst's own "Tanya, urban guerrilla" period as the kidnapped and brainwashed Honey starts shooting guns and spouting radical propaganda. Waters' work here recalls his earlier, lunatic films like *Pink Flamingos* and *Female Trouble*. He is more over-the-top and less mainstream than in previous big-budget outings like *Hairspray* and *Serial Mom*.

But this is not to say that *Cecil B. DeMented* works, because basically it does not. Waters, who has remained true to his original vision, is no longer ahead of the curve. There are few laughs in *Cecil*, and the outrageousness

seems entirely forced and unnatural. Only one scene in a porn theater really sparkles with originality. Everything else we've seen or heard before.

Celeb victim

Waters, who has made only five other films in the last 20 years, is the classic victim of his own celebrity. His early work, which had the same terrible dialogue and preposterous situations as *Cecil B. DeMented*, was fun due to its total lack of professionalism. These films had no budget, hideous costumes, lousy photography, horrible continuity, exceedingly bad actors, drag queens, and one genuine toothless hag. (Ah, Edith, where are you when we need you?) When Waters put them together, they became much more than the sum of their parts. Every aspect of his early films served as both a commentary on contemporary social mores and a send-up of filmmaking. But when mainstream success arrived, Waters chose to accept Hollywood budgets and big stars while trying to remain true to his original vision. Unfortunately for him, and the audience, it's not working. The zeitgeist (not to mention the Farrelly brothers) has passed him by.

In *Cecil B. DeMented*, Melanie Griffith, with her inflated lips and self-conscious stardom, seems totally out of place as the radical Honey. And Stephen Dorff in the title role is so pretty and so coifed that his physical appearance recalls a Gaultier model more than a lunatic Baltimore filmmaker. Vince Peranio's elaborate production design and Robert Stevens' expert cinematography reinforce the aesthetic dissonance between the writing and the production values. There is no denying that all the principals are talented professionals who have worked within the Hollywood motion picture industry for many years. It is foolhardy for anyone, Waters included, to think that these insiders can provide the authentic outsider perspective that once fueled his work. As a result, Waters is hoisted by his own petard, reduced to doing self-parody in the same way that Faye Dunaway now does with

Alicia Witt plays Cherish, a member of the Sprocket Holes, in John Waters' *Cecil B. DeMented*

every role she takes. He is now an insider in the film industry, trying to hold on to his increasingly tired original vision, but ending up with the worst of both worlds.

At the end of *Cecil B. DeMented*, Waters orchestrates an ambisexual orgy on top of the candy

concession at a drive-in movie. As the large cast of extras riot, sirens blare, fire engines wail, and police lob a hail of bullets at the copulating guerrilla filmmakers. In the middle of all this, Melanie Griffith sets her hair on fire. Already distanced from this current Waters'

production, I could only recall with wistful fondness that small pile of dog poop and the look on Divine's face. ▼

Cecil B. DeMented opens August 11.

Stephen Dorff is lunatic film director *Cecil B. DeMented*

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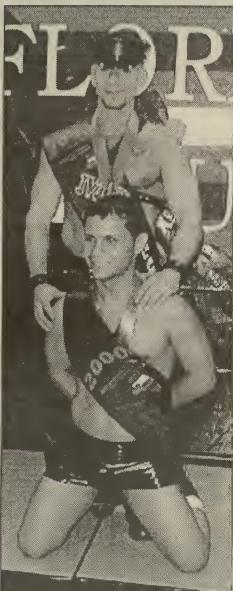
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Drummers compete among Florida palms

by Mister Marcus

Three men and three boys vied for the Florida Drummer sashes this past weekend, August 4-6, in St. Petersburg, Florida, and it was a pleasure witnessing it all and working with judges Victor Varela, Butch Arnold, Bruce Chopnik, Michael Cruz, Al Santora, Woodie Barnes and Fraser Picard to decide the winner. We tossed questions both tough and humorous at the competitors, and they handled it all with ease, making our task tough. The boys attempting to sway us were Shawn Casey, Efrain Nunez



Mark D'Aleo of Miami Beach (standing) was named Mr. Florida Drummer 2000 last Saturday night, August 5, along with Efrain Nunez (Kneeling), who became Florida Drummer Boy 2000. The contest took place at the Sun Coast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida. The winners now advance to the Drummer finals at the same venue in September.



Mister Marcus

You read about him here last week, now get a good look at Keith Truitt, long-time activist, fundraiser, and all-around good guy. He was chosen Leather Daddy XVIII on Friday, July 29 at the Eagle Tavern.

and Willie Williamson, while the Drummer men contenders were Mark D'Aleo, Lane Dumser and Bruce Ross, each making his best effort to win our favor.

But before I get to the winner (hold that suspense a moment), let me just say that if this past weekend was a preview of what the International Mr. Drummer contest will be like in September, everyone planning to attend can expect a special treat. Oh, sure, a few disgruntled people grouse over Mike Zuhls decision to hold the Drummer Finals in St. Petersburg, Florida, where even the palms sweat, but they're missing the boat. Once you get there, the venue, the staff, the service and the surprises awaiting

you at the Sun Coast Resort will overwhelm you with welcoming warmth. Just strip down to your slinkiest leather and you'll feel cool on the lips on your cheeks.

Co-owners Tom Kiple and Lester Wolff and their efficient staff at Sun Coast can be smugly proud of last weekend's Florida Regional Drummer Contest. Everyone agrees they are guilty of producing a class act, in cooperation, of course, with regional sponsor Bob Graves (he of the successful Full Moon Saloon in Orlando, Florida). Their fine efforts were evident all weekend, with nothing spared in making sure everyone had a good time.

As the emcees, Shann Carr and page 45 ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, August 11-13

Defenders MC & Knights of Malta joint weekend run to Saratoga Springs with a \$140 tariff at this late date.

In Phoenix, Arizona, the Southwest Regional Drummer contest with all the action taking place at the Padlock Bar. Meet & Greet on Friday, contest on Saturday and victory brunch on Sunday.

Friday, August 11

"European Landscape" photo show taking place at Atelier Gallery, 142 Fillmore St., with the work of half a dozen local photographers. Call 861-8216 for hours and other details.

Saturday, August 12

La Sachet (as in Donna) gets murdered while you wine and dine at the California Club, with gourmet fare, libations and a campy time for all. It's \$65 for stags and \$120 for couples (hire an escort!).

Bay Area Submissives meet at 1500 today for discussion and info. Call 487-9769 for details and invite.

Sunday, August 13

Knights of Malta MC beer/soda bust at the Eagle, with food, lots of beer, and cruising galore. The grub should be good and it's only \$8, from 1500-1800.

Wednesday, August 16

Skivvie night at 933 Harrison, with doors open from 2100-2300. Mandatory clothes check. If you got it, flaunt it, but expect to have it trashed. Call 863-HEAD for invite and details.

Mr. New England Drummer contest at the Ramrod. They're missing Charles Carley big time at the Ramrod (he moved to New Orleans), but I'm sure the contest will be a success anyway.

Friday, August 18

Glennon Sutter hosts "Leather Extravaganza" tonight with \$100 ducats for a sit-down dinner including a hosted bar, gourmet dinner Pacific Rim style, and entertainment. For \$50, all this minus the gourmet dinner. Bare chest calendar men, Irene Soderberg, Kathleen Antonio, a silent auction, leather galore, and always always fun at this event.

Saturday, August 19

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1900 for only \$7 with cheap hot dogs

Wednesday, August 23

Macho night for Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the rules: No cologne; No white sneakers, boots and leather mandatory. You will be sniffed. Call 863-HEAD.

POLKSTRASSE

A few fond farewells

by Sweet Lips

Join us on Sat., August 12, 9 p.m. at Marlena's, 488 Hayes St., as we bid farewell to Grand Duke XXV Philip Seddon and Steve Hiser. Sweet Lips wishes them both the very best. Marlena and staff host the fun, with food and a show to boot.

On the topic of goodbyes, the Giraffe on Polkstrasse is having a Semi-Retirement Party for Charlie Berlanga today (Thurs., August 10) at 2 p.m.

Also at the Giraffe: Empress Suzie Wong has her annual

Celebrity Shorts Auction on Sun., August 13 at 3 p.m. And on Sat., August 19, the Giraffe hosts a birthday party for Nooth (aka Jack Antonucci), the legendary Greta Grass, Kenny Allison and all their fellow Leos, starting at Noon. Catered by Dennis ("Garters Tartare") Tyler.

A sad note for the old friends of dear Nan Mundell: she passed away last week at, can you believe it, 107 years old. She was a fixture at the



Cocktail Hour

Bridgewater Bar and Sausalito Inn. Nan, who lived with her daughter Mary in Marin and was still working two shifts a week, was a marvelous woman who outlived six — count 'em, 6 — husbands.

Club Rendez-Vous is still the home of 49ers games on Polkstrasse. Niners meet the Kansas City Chiefs on Sun., Aug. 13 at 5:30 p.m. And don't miss Stella night with David Kapp at the R-V, Tues., Aug. 22, 8-10 p.m. ▼

Martina the magnificent

Tennis Hall of Fame inducts Navratilova

by Bradley David

The blustery overcast conditions on the grounds of the historic Newport Casino in Newport, Rhode Island couldn't dampen the glorious spirit of celebration last month as tennis legend and lesbian icon Martina Navratilova was enshrined into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Following an introduction from Dr. Renee Richards, the famous transsexual who coached Navratilova during the dominant period of her storied career, the woman often called the greatest female tennis player of all time took the podium and reflected on her place in history.

"It's nice to be able to talk about yourself without feeling guilty or without having to pay somebody to listen to you," Navratilova told the 4,000 spectators gathered at the manicured lawns of the Tennis Museum and Hall of Fame, where the game was first played in the United States in 1881.

Dressed comfortably in white slacks and a beige blazer over a peach-colored shirt, Navratilova basked in the affection of the crowd, speaking without a hint of nervousness as she thanked the many people who helped her to achieve greatness. Among those present for the occasion were her mother Jana, visiting from the Czech Republic, friend and mentor Billie Jean King, former doubles partner Pam Shriver (with whom she won a record 109 consecutive doubles matches from 1983 to 1985), and Nancy Lieberman-Cline, the basketball star credited with motivating Navratilova to reach optimum physical fitness through discipline



Martina, in her tennis whites, scores on the court again.

and intensive athletic training.

Company of canines

Navratilova's laundry list of acknowledgments was not confined to humans. After thanking all the "doctors who held me together, homeopathic people, osteopaths, massage therapists," she expressed appreciation to "my dogs, for keeping me company throughout my career." The biggest laugh of the day came when she extended her gratitude even to "all the girlfriends who suffered through all the matches in the stands — wherever they are —."

Sticking mostly to tennis, this was the only reference Navratilova

made in the speech to her sexuality. At a press conference earlier in the day, however, she answered several questions from reporters about her work in the area of gay rights.

"Until we have equal access and equal protection under the law, I will keep speaking out," she said. "I don't want it to be an issue, but it is, because we don't have equal access and equal rights. It's something I couldn't even talk about until I became a [US] citizen. It was a disqualifying thing to be a lesbian [when applying for citizenship], and it shouldn't be that way."

"It shouldn't be disqualifying for that, or to defend this country, page 48 ▶

Mister Marcus

◀ page 44

Dan Holland managed to provide humorous asides while eliciting the action at hand, and the audience ate it up. Humor is much appreciated in contests of this kind. The tension is bad enough for the contestants, who must steel themselves for a win or, alas, a loss. So in this respect, in getting folks to laugh, Shann and Dan did a great job.

There were speeches, lots of speeches, at the event, including a whopping 39-minute stepping-down speech, a marathon almost matching IMsL 99 Pam Meyer's. Everyone else, including an elo-

quent Mike Zuhl, was brief and to the point, even the local Ft. Lauderdale man who won a special award.

The "Locker Room" fantasies from the competitors were, well, fantastic!

When all the votes were tallied, the Drummer Boy (judged on Saturday night) was announced, and the winner is (drum roll here): Efrain Nunez, a handsome cuss with a sweet face and a mighty fine torso.

After Fraser Picard said a few words, it was announced that Mark D'Aleo of Miami Beach would be the Florida representative at IM Drummer, a worthy contender indeed.

The winner announcements drew thunderous applause as the paparazzi rushed the stage, and both Mark and Efrain earned places in the leather history books.

Lonely notes

At my deadline, it was learned that, due to unexplained circumstances, the Canadian Drummer competition had been canceled. It was supposed to take place at the same time as the Florida Drummer competition.

Also at my deadline, no word had been received on whom the winners were for the Rocky Mountain Leather (not Drummer) titles. When I know, I'll pass on the word. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

United Wash Dulles Flight Sat. Cute boy in khakis- we should have talked. Call me. The attraction was mutual. ☎ 72131

Wow! Dark Beard On Sanchez St. June 28 Wednesday, around 8:30pm I was walking my dog. I have short hair and mustache. Your dark beard walked into building @ Sanchez & Market. ☎ 72132

Eros, Sat July 8 You: hot blond stud. Me: tall dark handsome. We played then met in locker room. Talked briefly, but too shy to ask for number. "Let's hook up again!" ☎ 72153

Scott-Lone Star- July 2nd We met & spoke briefly. Wanted to connect, but got busy with friends. Would love to get together for fire-works or? Frank. ☎ 72183

P.J. Lumber Konichiwa? I hope to meet you again someday, Amen. ☎ 72151

Gay Cherokee Indian Wants Love 5'8", 145lbs. long dark hair, love Charles Ely, Michael Lucas, & Mike Crews. Want to rub my deal against yours. Send phone & email. Want to make love to all. ☎ 72134

RRR Pool 7/8-7/9 You: dark; blue/orange suit. Me: shorter; ragged blue shorts, red cap. We waved as I left, kicking myself for not managing more. Hoping for another chance. Please call. ☎ 72149

Davies Radiology, Late April Chatted w/you while partner was getting x-rayed. Had good conversation about treatment. Partner now deceased, would like to reconnect with you. ☎ 72133

Hey Billy Budd Cafe Flore, 7/9. Do you believe life has a happier ending than in books? Dinner? Movie? ☎ 72150

Metrofire Fri 6/30 Firewood Cafe Phil, I showed you where the car was parked after we introduced ourselves. Thanks for picking me out of the crowd. It would be a dream come true to meet you for lunch again. -Kent ☎ 72154

Sniff PLT, Etc. Who made those great stencils? I'd like to talk to you. ☎ 72155

Rick-Solstice Party 6/16 We met under full moon at house on 14th St. Me: Rob from Ukiyah. You left to find your partner Doug(?) before exchanging phone nos. Would love to reconnect. ☎ 72156

Joel P. French Canadian Mom Miss you. Parisian angel network. ☎ 72181

MSQ Early Mornings "Morning." You bearded, great eyes, beautiful smile. Like to know you better. Dinner? MCG ☎ 72182

Badlands Sat Nite 7/29 You: short blonde hair, beautiful smile in green v-neck t-shirt with black/white trim. Me: Asian, short hair in white daruma doll t-shirt. Should have said hello. Too shy. Meet for coffee? ☎ 72231

Bagdad Cafe You Eating Alone! 7/20 11:30pm. I had dark hair sitting across from you. To shy to smile until I left. You tan boots, left in jeep. "Dessert?" ☎ 72202

VGL Latino Boy ISO Older Man You: 335-50, good looking, financially secure, and fun to take care of a great boy. You won't be sorry! ☎ 72236

Sun 7/16/00 Muni/ West Portal You- cutey w/yellow shirt, handkerchief around neck, glasses, shorts, writing on pad. Me- Asian, older couldn't stop staring. "Let's talk!" ☎ 72203

Mark, We Shared Vege Table In Chinatown. I enjoyed the conversation. Let's eat in DC. ☎ 72152

Dave, Sun 7/23 Tower Records... You helped me find Linda Eder in vocals. You bought mamma cass. We talked and you liked my accent. I'd love to go further. Date? Please call! ☎ 72204

N. We Met On July 30 While Sitting outdoors of a bar on 18th Street. I regret not to have exchanged telephone numbers. Please call me. ☎ 72229

Whole Foods Deli, Mon 7/24 4:45pm You: grey-toned khakis. Me: blue sport-coat, white shirt. Your smile captures my imagination. Too bad I barely "smiled" back. Can do much better. Would love to meet you. ☎ 72230

Tues. 7/28-Bart/ Fremont; You: tall blonde/thinning, blue eyes, green, watch. Me: jacket, tie brown/thinning, green eyes. Both boarded Civic Ctr., you waved, exited Coliseum. I smiled. Coffee? Movie? ☎ 72232

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

"GWM Professional, Moving To S.F." In near future. Seeks friends for fun and dating. I have a fetish for nylon tights/pantyhose. No, I mean cross-dressing. Very sensual. Love outdoors, bicycling, walks, and am a movie goer. Have two max cats. ☎ 72135

Pisces Want Scorpio Only GWM, 48, 5'10" 175lbs, uncut bottom bald virgin (Pisces), seeks GWM Scorpio top 30-50y. I will do all for you! ☎ 72184

GWM 36, 5'10" 175lbs, Healthy Humorous Seeks down to earth GWM in his 30's for ltr. Clean sheaven, clean cut, in-shape guys only. ☎ 72136

"Seeking Matured Man!" I like matured men late 50's to 60's, weight proportioned to height who would enjoy being serviced periodically. No reciprocation necessary. Must have your own place. Let's get together. ☎ 72138

Asian ISO White Male Asian male, 36, 145lbs. 5'7", attractive, built, smooth, fun, down to earth. In search of WM in their 30's smooth, tight & lean for friends, date and more. ☎ 72157

GWM New To Union City Seeks GBM Sex is important, but so is kissing, cuddling, sense of humor, and spontaneity. Me 55, 5'11", 175. UB 30-45, sincere, honest, open to possibilities. I'm ready. ☎ 72158

Attractive Latino Good looking Latino 35yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, professional looking for GWM 27-40yo for friendship or more. Like: dining out, biking, hiking, travel and more. ☎ 72160

R U Ready? To meet a great guy? 42yo GWM, 6'3", 200lbs professional seeks 35 to 45yo top. Interests include music, dining out & enjoying the good life. HIV- only please. Ltr. msg. ☎ 72162

Handsome/Creative/Professional Sex intense, passionate, worldly, hung-mostly top 5'10", 170, br, gr, 37 HIV neg. seeks masculine, focused, hung or very hot ass'd men for secure, loving and fun ltr. ☎ 72163

Young Handsome Russian! Looking for other intelligent Russians or Europeans under 40yo, to give my body and soul. No disappointment guaranteed. ☎ 72208

Single, San, Sober, Sensuous... GWM, 48, 185lbs, uncut, c&s, hairy, balding, versatile. Sks any age for dating and/or playing/ regular sex. Very sexual, sane, and sensuous! ☎ 72209

~GWM ISO GHM Sweetheart~ Who's affectionate, warm & humorous, HIV-, 32-46, enjoys outdoors, movies, dining out, kissing & cuddling. Me: GWM, HIV-, a young 42, 5'9", 175lbs, brn/blue. ☎ 72207

Life Is Very Short Lets Discover Each other. Attractive Japanese artist seeks GWM 55+(over) for ltr, possible monogamous. I am 40, 5'8", 135# slim/athletic, HIV- seeks honest sincere romantic, sense of humor, grey hair/little chubby A+. ☎ 72164

Bright Eyes, Easy Smile Handsome GWM 55+(over) 5'4", 195wh/br, stable, honest, affectionate ISO monogamous life partner (friends first, safe sex later), who is happy, enthusiastic, energetic, HIV-, n/s. Walnut Creek area. ☎ 72165

Heart & Soul Hunk. Amen! Friendly, unpretentious, quick-witted, young-looking 41, 6'1", 175#, br/gr, clean-shaven, Dutch background, HIV-, publishing entrepreneur, cook, own itty, hike, swim, sunset cocktail, nude massage. Artistic sensitivity. Well-endowed in more ways than one. ☎ 72166

"Blond, Beatty Oh Beau!" Beefy Cal Ripken type, hairy top, forty-something, 6'2", 190, blond professional wowed by attractive, masculine, Afro-American, caramel brown, goatee, Virginian, 40, 5'11", 170, writer into jazz, romance, nude and cuddling. Turn on: deep-minded, witty, and calm-natured. ☎ 72167

The Pisces Looking For A Scorpio GWM 48yo, 6' uncut bottom bald virgin 175lb, looking for GWM top scorpio only for friendship and more 30-50yo. I'll do all for you, scorpio just fuck me! ☎ 72168

Looking For A Man To Love I am 5'11", 180, 57, good shape, handsome, s&p hair, hazel eyes, mustache, HIV-, looking for a serious man, 40-55, interested in a relationship. Serious only. ☎ 72169

Mature Magic In The East Bay Mature GWM in Oakland, 5'9", 155, HIV-, looking for GWM, GAM, GLM, 40 to 60+, in good health, and good shape, for good times, safe sex and solid relationship. ☎ 72168

"Seeking The Man To Love~" My heart is open, 36, HIV+ attractive healthy. Positive attitude, spiritual. Looking for HIV+ male, any race, 25 to 37 yr old masculine, athletic, attractive top. Emotionally available, affectionate, loving for friendship/ ltr. ☎ 72170

Slowly But Surely GWM, 40, 5'11", 175lb, fun, sincere, affectionate, fit, seeking friendship, relationship and then sexual intimacy with 35-45 year old honest, sincere non-smoker (n/d, n/alcohol) male. Like movies, travel, yoga, hiking, biking, dancing. ☎ 72165

Asian Young, goodlooking, GAM, 52yo, slim, 5'7", is looking for an older GWM for possible relationship. Like: quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. ☎ 72159

Handsome Italian 40, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times, seeks another HIV- negative well hung man who is honest and sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 72206

GAM 48 Seek GWM 55 Or Over For LTR. Prefer no smoker & clean shaven. ☎ 72185

Young Handsome Russian! Looking for other intelligent Russians or Europeans under 40yo, to give my body and soul. No disappointment guaranteed. ☎ 72208

Single, San, Sober, Sensuous... GWM, 48, 185lbs, uncut, c&s, hairy, balding, versatile. Sks any age for dating and/or playing/ regular sex. Very sexual, sane, and sensuous! ☎ 72209

Older Gentleman Seeks Younger Attr. GWM, 76, 5'7", 165lbs., seeks a loving-sexual friend, poss. ltr, with a serious 18-45 man. Let's do the Folsom and Castro St. Fair together! ☎ 72220

-Seeking Mr. Not Perfect!!!~ GAM 31yrs with goatee and good, honest, personality seeks fun, interesting, jovial person to share walks on beach, movies and intimate dinners. ☎ 72216

"Any Gay Magic Players?" New to area. Prof. GWM 32, non-smoker, ISO friends, companion and ltr. Let's explore the city together. Enjoy movies, walks on beach, playing collectable card games, ... ☎ 72212

As Long As You Lode Me... I don't care who you are, where your coming from... Nice Brazilian, masc. 36y, 5'7", 142lbs, hard #8 uncut, looking for GWM or Latino, under 40. Hard love is waiting. ☎ 72213

2 Intense For One Man WLTM a couple between 30 & 50 hairy, slender to well built tops or versatile. Me 6'3", 45 look 40, 215#, masculine, blue collar musc/van dyke versatile & affectionate/HIV- ☎ 72214

Sexy Package Sks Covering Material Sometimes emotional, always nurturing, intense sex appeal to others, absolute body eyes, shy when most important but internally confident, 5'8" 29, 155, dark featured, Scorpio, favorable package. Turn on: deep-minded, witty, and calm-natured. ☎ 72215

Asian ISO White Male Asian male, 36, 146lbs, 5'7", attractive built, smooth, fun. In search of White male in their 30's, smooth, built, lean for friends and date. ☎ 72233

Seeking Man To Love For LTR I am 5'8", 140#, 35, slim/athletic. Handsome Japanese. Blk/hair-eye, mustache, HIV-. Looking for a serious man, 55+ over. Interested in ltr/monogamous-oriented. Wh/ hair A+. Serious only pls. call. ☎ 72234

Blond Seeking Honey Blond Top! 44yo, musc tanned, smooth, 150, 5'8" HIV- great ass, educated, East Bay, friendly, romantic, bottom. ☎ 72235

Bottom For Bottom Or Top GWM, 42, 6', 165lbs,HIV+, Italian/German, brown/hazel, beard seeks lean snuggly buddy 5'10" or taller, 30-45 for cuddling. ☎ 72237

Travis Where Are You? Its been four years. I need to see you. Last time I saw you, you were bald and working at a cafe @ Haight and Masonic. P.S. Black male! Remember? ☎ 72238

Uncut, Hung-9, Hairy, Masc, Musc GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, mustache/ goatee, versatile dad. ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work", verbal, light skinned, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on east coast, traveling S.F. Oct. Nude photo required, butt photo get mine. I am HIV- poz/o! ☎ 72239

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Flip Flop Sex GWM 52, 6'2", 180lb., HIV+, 7 1/2 tool. Don't call if you are bottom only. I believe that you should give as well as you get. Just sex- not your fantasy about sex. ☎ 72139

"Spank Me!" Cute frat boy 23 needs over the knee discipline from a dominant big brother 18-35. Castro ☎ 72140

Discreet Oral Relief Very attractive, WM, 41/6'/175, fit, hairy, HIVneg, single, ISO WM who loves to get head in S.F. U.b honest, HIVneg, and hung. Looking to spoil someone. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 72142

Man To Man Pleasure GWM, 36, HIV+, brown, hz, 6'1", 175, bottom, seeks, HIV+ tops 40-50, must have good humor, enjoy life, enjoy the outdoors, like showing himself with others. ☎ 72143

Seeking Hot Hung Thick Daddy Handsome, sex 37 MM. Need to please a real man. Will do what's what, am excellent btm/man. ☎ 72144

Submissive Black Bottom Seeks top dominant a plus, verbal a plus raunch, kink, sieze a plus. Available weekends and some evenings. ☎ 72169

Cocksocker Sks. Muscle Studs Horny & hot, 45, 6', 200#, goatee wants to be between the legs of a hot muscle stud (18-40), sucking cock & ass. Your place in the Castro. ☎ 72170

Slave Wanted San Jose master looking for skinny, hung slaves for long bondage and cbt sessions. Must be willing and obedient. ☎ 72171

BAR TALK PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Seeking A Sugar Daddy

ISO a mature man who wants the company/companion of a 31yr old stud. I'm sincere, responsible and well educated. 5'8", 160lbs, smooth, muscular, brown hr/ goatee. ☎ 7212

Beautiful Latin Seeks Asian
Me: 24, 6ft, 160, beautiful face & body, intelligent, friendly. I'm seeking a generous, sensual Asian man to get together with on a regular basis. ☎ 72173

I'm Looking To Keep Up My
Language practice. Intense French Romantic GWM 30's desires French boyfriend. Charming, wild, magical. Not into "tricky French games". How can we meet? ☎ 72187

-Exhibitionist?
Walking around naked get you stiff? Enjoy showing off? Posing? Being admired, stroked? Handsome GWM, mid-40's tall and slim, enjoys watching and sketching muscular guy, bi, and straight & dudes (25-50) undress and strip their stuff. ☎ 72124

ISO Large Men
Very sexy 70yrs needs heavyweights over 250# for hot sex. I'm 6' 165# 6 1/2" inches bald, bearded into any scene. Aroma a plus. ☎ 72188

Oral Excellence
Friendly 49er has opening for 1-2 good men for cock service. Hot mouth, deep throat, aching balls, restore serenity! Big cock essential, in shape, facial hair A+. ☎ 72189

Tough Guys Wanted To Rumble
Skinheads, leathermen, wrestler's boxers, fight clubbers wanted by 5'8", 140# hairy muscled skinhead for barefisted no-rules, fights for top in private SF ring. Dukes up and ready, man! ☎ 72190

Palo Alto GAM 42-5'11" 185
Has two holes, needs cock for drilling & filling take your pick, no reciprocation. ☎ 36yo to 49. ☎ 72191

Black And White XXX Fun & Sex
SWM 47, 5'11" 175 masculine goodlooking with a big thick tool seeks hunky Black men for j/o, videos, buttplay, nude beaches and baths. Me HIV+ versatile bottom. Palo Alto. ☎ 72192

ISO Ass Or Ball Specialist
I am 5'2", 120 HIV- 58y. Very clean, need someone experience in ass play if expert with ball abuse. You be willing to come to Sacramento, stay at my place if you like, I love sucking cock. Serious only. ☎ 72193

23yr, Blond/Brown Smooth White
Male, very fun to be with, enjoyable relaxing time, looking for adventure. ☎ 72194

Black On Top, Brown On Bottom
Penetrating Black top man, 46, seeks a masculine, mature Hispanic male who enjoys receiving a hot back door pounding. Chunky build, dark hair and mustache A+. "Serious!!!" ☎ 72216

I Need To Lick Boots!
Older guy seeks hunks into this scene, will lick, polish, even clean heel & sole with my tongue. Transport me to ecstasy. ☎ 72217

Scorpio Boy Handsome Athletic
Me: 35, 5'11", 175# brn hair & eyes cleaned shaved, smooth chest, kissing & touching. Very important. You be 40-45 good shape hairy chest. A+. No smokers or drugs HIV+ myself, you be too! ☎ 72218

Hey Nipple Fans!
You'll like mine. Fleshy with standup centers. This senior likes, then twisted, sucked etc. What are yours like? Mutual cocksucking too! ☎ 72219

Thick Tool
GWM, 57", loves chewing nipples and giving lots of rim. Mornings or early afternoon. Older a big plus. ☎ 72220

Son Seeks Submissive Dad
W/M 44, masculine, hairy top, seeks older businessmen, masculine, in-shape, deep throat- into spanking dad, role playing A+. ☎ 72221

Daddy Seeks Son

Very discreet clean and classy 50y.o. man desires the company of a cute intelligent young cub for fun, frolic and more. ☎ 72222

White Guy Seeks Hung Men
GWM 40, 6ft, 185, and goodlooking, seeks hot well hung men for oral, and more. All nationalities are welcome. No one over 40 please. ☎ 72240

Two Become One
35, WGM + great humor, love outdoors, love the beach, love great old movies, seeks someone with same interest, 40-50, HIV+ Into the same. Bottom. ☎ 72241

One-Wild Fuck
WM 35 5'10", 195lb blond/blue versatile muscle man, likes to get wild all night. Long, oral, anal, gay, bi. Also love to get massaged. ☎ 72242

Good Problem To Have
I fuck all my buddies, it must be the tall-dark-handsome thing. I want a guy (couple's are fun too), to fuck me. I'm 45, HIV- safe sex only. Call, describe yourself. ☎ 72243

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking
A local tool to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-, White, 6', 160# 40's. Porn tape while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 72244

Magic Hands
I give long slow intense erotic massages, formal training, but I have the intuitive touch. B's, straights, very discreet, versatile, and safe. No reciprocation required. ☎ 72245

How Blunt Can I Be?
I need my vintage Black Oakland tool sucked 2-3x weekly by an experienced expert. Please no beginners, beards/goatees, indirect phone numbers. ☎ 72246

Hey! Wanna Wrestle?
Fit, 6'2", 175lb. 40y.o. GWM wants to wrestle fit, playful guys for fun, submission, and/or pins. Trunks/tee, Speedos, nude. Your fantasies welcome. Maybe winner decides loser's "punishment"? ☎ 72247

Get Naked And Jack Off
Well hung exhibitionist wants to stroke tool with other naked men. Indoors or outdoors. Strip down, pose and show off, big hard cocks, Group scenes and dares get bigger erections! ☎ 72248

Seeking Hot Hung Thick Top
Sophisticated bottom visiting SF in August. Looking to have a good time, 5'8", 130lbs. Hazel/grey, brown hair, 40yrs old. Well hung a plus. ☎ 72250

Hoods & Skimasks
Blue collar skinhead, 28, tattoos give hot blow jobs wearing ski masks, hoods, beanies, derby jackets. Have ski mask collection; dig chinos, tops. Santa Clara. ☎ 72251

LESBIAN

DBF Seeks Loyal PWM Slave
I demand your attention, and total devotion. Serious only need apply. On your knees before me, that's where you belong! ☎ 72223

FETISHES

Gourmet Service Now 24/7!
Here's great news for your tool when that 4am hard on just won't lie back down, my special load-enhancing cock sucking service now available non stop around calendar/ clock! ☎ 72145

I'm A Sucker For Your Big Ones
Because the bigger your loads the better my cock sucking that brought them forth! Give your tool/balls a treat they'll remember. You know you guys want it! 24/7 service available. ☎ 72146

Contest Closes Labor Day Nite!

Quick let me earn your crucial vote for Bay Area's gold medal olympic cocksucker. You'll shoot like there's no tomorrow. Nothing to lose but that bigger than usual load!! ☎ 72147

Yoyeurs...

Exhibitionist, 40, 6'3", 185, br;br muscular, very masculine, hairy, huge cock, seeks men who love to watch a man pleasure himself. I'm into it, you too. Older/ big men ok. ☎ 72174

Middle Age, Hung And Horny

Black man needs a 5 minute blow job before work (7am.) or before bed (11pm.). Husky build and mustache (no other facial hair) a plus. Oakland area. Serious only. ☎ 72176

Feet Sheer Socks Anyone Out There?

Attractive Latino 33, 5'11", 190, size 12 shoe dark features, Virgo. Would like to meet Whites, Latinos, Asians, into same fetish under 40 non smokers only. No games. ☎ 72177

Erotic Rope Bondage

Bondage top, GWM, 42, 5'8", 155, good-looking, HIV-, seeks masculine in-shape submissive bottom, 21-45, for erotic bondage, gags, toys, Discipline, light sm negotiable. Safe, trustworthy. SF/ East Bay. ☎ 72178

Instructor Needed

To teach slim, mid-aged, 5'8", beard, mustache, balding daddy type how to overcome the gag reflex. (Optional Teeth). Want to be able to take on the big ones. ☎ 72195

Pig Hole Punch Fest

29y/o top seeks bottom who love their hole punched and made sloppy. Let's get those lips big and saggy. Facial hair A+. In SF only. ☎ 72249

Mutual Spanking

W/M 60, seeks others into mutual spanking scenes in Castro. No push bottoms please. ☎ 72253

Seeking Big Tool With Big Load

50's GWM, HIV-, with big hands and wrists seeks GWM, HIV-, with accommodating hole for exploring and pleasure. Aroma/herbs ok. ☎ 72252

Horse Hung Guy Seeks Others

Very goodlooking BM, 30, 5'11", clean-shaven, muscular 190lbs, hung 10", seeks horse hung guy, any age/ weight/ age for hot fun! All an-



International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee Martina Navratilova

Navratilova

◀ page 45

or adopting children, being able to marry, having a partner protected by law, etc.," she continued. "We don't have any of that — unless you move to Vermont, and it's a pretty small state."

In addition to gay and lesbian issues, Navratilova's political activism has extended to animal rights (she is a vegetarian and supporter of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), the environment and women's rights (she has served on the boards of Planned Parenthood and the Women's Sports Foundation).

"There is inequality all around the world, not just for gays and lesbians, but women in particular," she said. "Look at what happens in Afghanistan, Iraq, all the Muslim countries, Africa — the list goes on and on. It's much worse for women, actually, than it is for gays and lesbians throughout the world. We have it pretty good here in this country, but it's still not as good as it should be, so until that is the case, I'll keep talking about it."

She said the most satisfying thing she has been able to accomplish outside of tennis is founding the Rainbow Card, a credit card that has donated almost \$1 million in profits to gay and lesbian organizations.

Asked about homophobia in sports, Navratilova said she never had many problems on the court.

"That was the beauty of tennis [and] of sports — that athletes do not see color, they do not see borders, they do not see communist, capitalist, black, white, gay, straight," she said. "You know, 'How good is her forehand?' really is the bottom line."

Lucky dress

After the press conference, Navratilova visited a new exhibit in the Hall of Fame Museum created especially for the occasion of her enshrinement. Entitled *Martina the Magnificent*, the exhibit features trophies, photos and mementos personally chosen and loaned to the museum by Navratilova herself. The collection includes display cases containing her nine Wimbledon plates and the "lucky" dress she wore in winning her first Wimbledon in 1978. The white sleeveless garment with gold pinstripes and large navy blue lapels with a monogrammed M was created by the late Ted Tinling, the openly gay British-born tennis historian and fashion designer.

Along with the record nine Wimbledon titles, Navratilova won four US Opens, three Australian Opens and two French

Opens. In a career lasting from 1973 until 1994, she became the winningest player — man or woman — in tennis history, breaking records with 1,438 singles match wins, 167 singles tournament titles and 165 doubles titles.

Now 43, Navratilova returned to the tennis tour this year, competing in doubles at the French Open and Wimbledon. She is currently playing World Team Tennis and has plans to compete in doubles at the US Open.

Besides her gay rights activism, which included featured speeches at the 1993 and 2000 Marches on Washington, she has kept herself quite busy since retiring from singles competition in 1994. She co-wrote three mystery novels, has written columns for *Sports For Women* magazine and *USA Today*, and has done televised tennis commentary for HBO, TNT and the BBC. Denied millions of dollars in product endorsements because of her sexuality over the years, she is now appearing in TV commercials for Subaru.

Besides tennis, she keeps in shape by skiing, snowboarding, and playing basketball and hockey (with a women's league in Aspen, Colorado called the Mother Puckers). She has been on several photographic safaris in Africa, learned to make furniture in a carpentry class, and recently earned her pilot's license. In 1996, she did a cross-country motorcycle ride on her Harley Davidson.

Despite her tendency to get teary-eyed on emotional occasions, Navratilova was simply too happy to cry in Newport. After talking about her humble beginnings in communist Czechoslovakia, she closed her heartfelt remarks by expressing gratitude for the "chosen family" she has made of the special people she has met through tennis.

"When all is said and done, I know that I have given a very good part of my soul to the game of tennis," she said. "But as in life, when you give, you receive. I must say that tennis has given me soul, and that gift I can never repay."

The highlight of the day, however, was the moving tribute from Dr. Renee Richards, who now lives a very private life in Manhattan, where she is a respected ophthalmologist. Asking her audience to close their eyes and visualize Martina on Center Court at Wimbledon, Richards vividly described a typical Navratilova match point — a powerful slice serve followed by a piercing volley winner into the open court.

"The stadium erupts," Richards ended her introduction. "Magnificent Martina — a champion for all time!" ▶

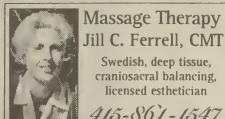
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PERSONALS

MASSAGE



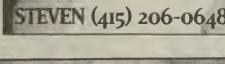
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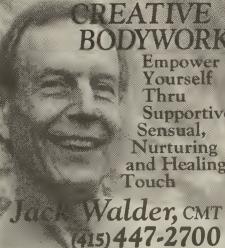
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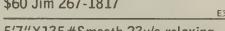
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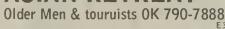
STEVE C.M.T.
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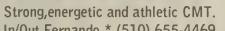
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Healing, Satisfying



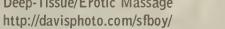
STRONG HANDS
SENSITIVE & EXPERIENCED



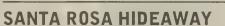
From Stress Reduction to
Simple Relaxation



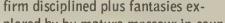
QUANTUM SHAMAN



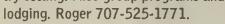
FOR ASIAN MEN



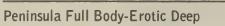
Attractive blonde CMT 24, gives



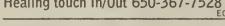
Swedish/Deep Tissue massage (415)



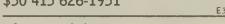
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GERMAN BOY, 24



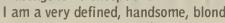
Cute blonde CMT gives Swedish/Deep



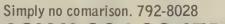
Tissue massage using table, hot oil,



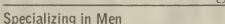
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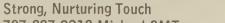
TOUCH ME ALL OVER/X-RATED RUB



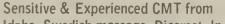
by hot nudist/Ken/346-4966/\$60



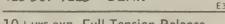
TOTAL ZONE ERGONOMIC MASSAGE



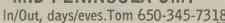
Jacoby 24 hr, 408-814-2295



577-123# Hwy 299 Bld will trvl



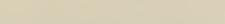
HERAPUTIC & SENSUAL BODYWORK



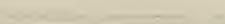
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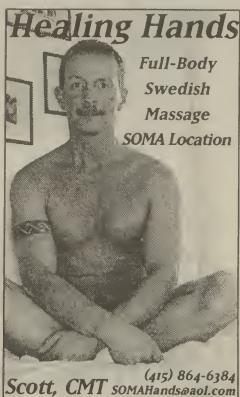
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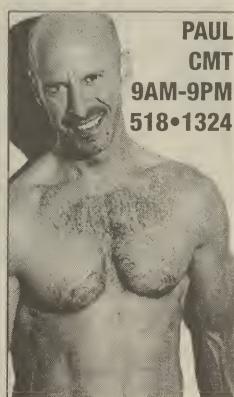
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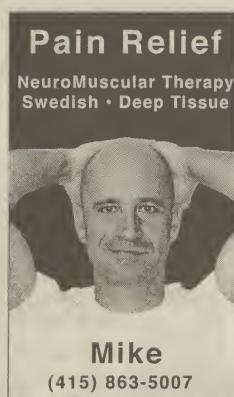
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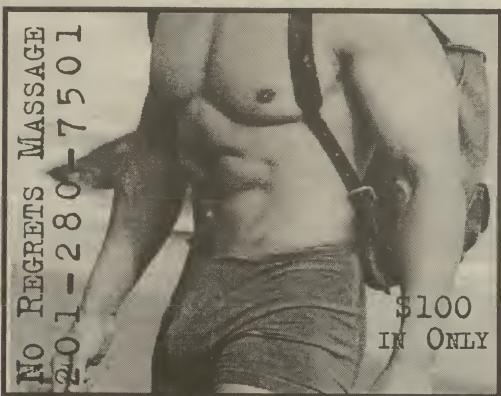
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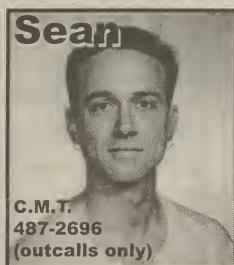
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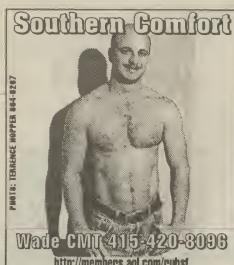


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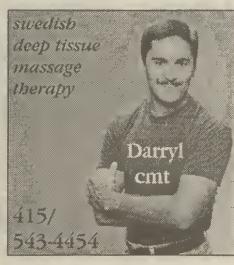


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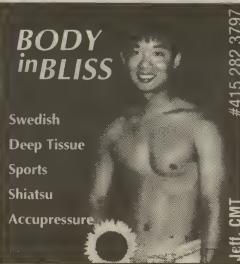
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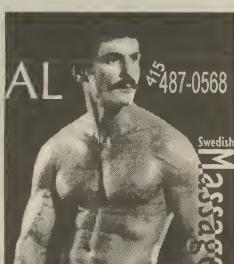


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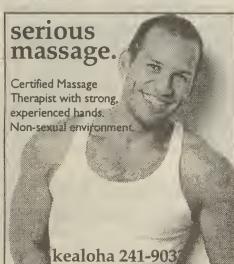
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AL
487-0568
Swedish



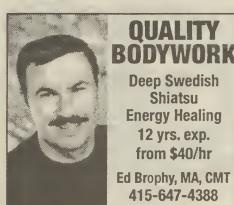
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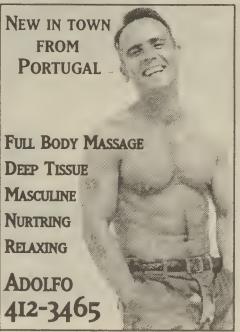


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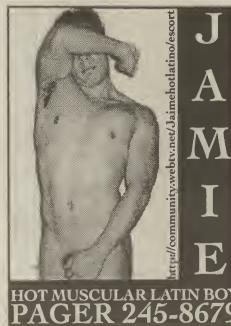
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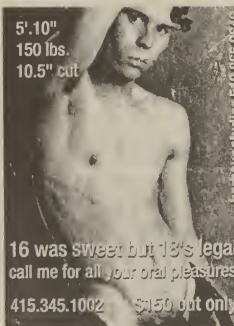
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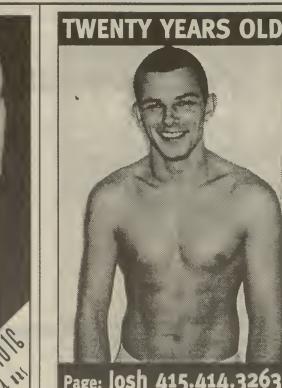
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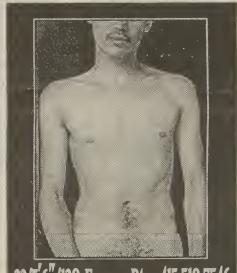
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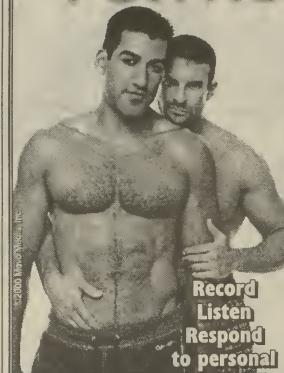
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